



# BLUE MONDAYS

The Long Goodbye  
of the Montreal Expos

JEFF STUART

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**THE LONG GOODBYE OF THE  
MONTREAL EXPOS**

**BY JEFFREY STUART**



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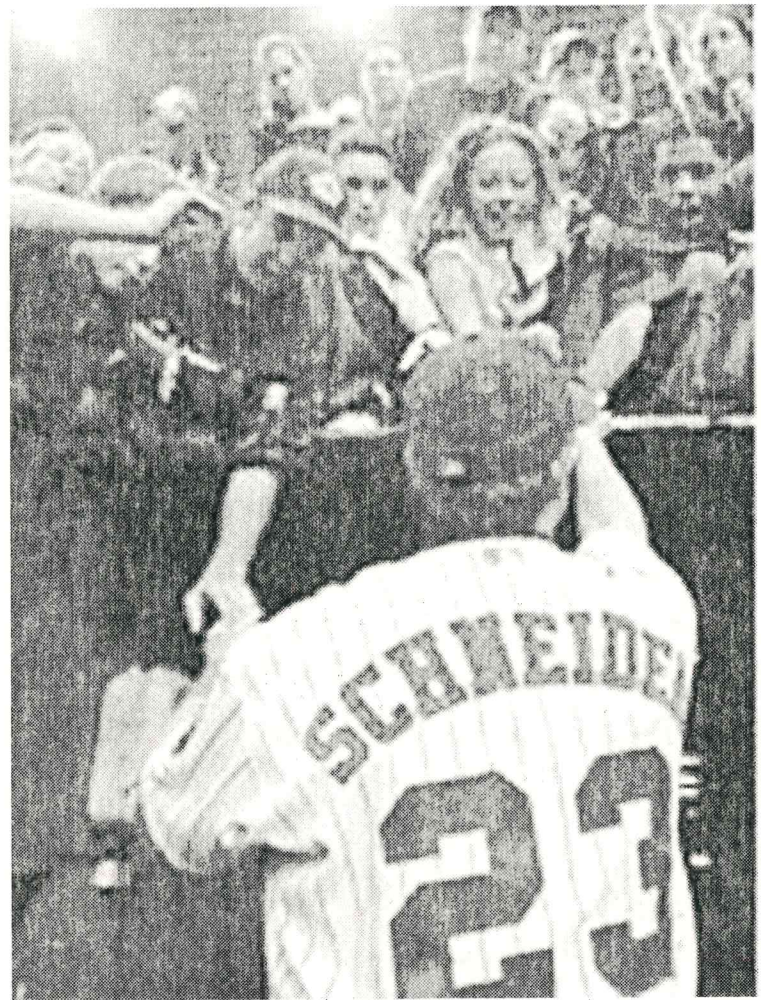
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*It's high time you were shown  
That you really don't know all there is to be known.  
~ Dr. Seuss—ON BEYOND ZEBRA*

*Thanks for your edits, encouragement, and input.  
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And to my brothers and sisters: Ann, Monty, Lynn, Chris,  
and Jamie.*

# **BLUE MONDAYS**

**THE LONG GOODBYE OF THE  
MONTREAL EXPOS**



*Photo by Christinne Muschi/REUTERS  
Expos Catcher Brian Schneider shakes hands with Expos  
fans following the final game at Olympic Stadium.*



*'Cause you never can tell  
What goes on down below!  
This pool might be bigger than you or I know!  
~ Dr. Seuss—MCELLIGOT'S POOL*

## BLUE MONDAYS THE LONG GOODBYE OF THE MONTREAL EXPOS

Specifically, in Montreal Expos baseball lore, "Blue Mondays," refers to Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1981. Rick Monday of the Dodgers went deep off the Expos' pitcher Steve Rogers late in the 5th and deciding game of the 1981 National League Championship Series. It was Expos first and last post season appearance. It was a dark moment for Expos fans. But it passed with next opening day and the next. Opening day of the Major League Baseball season is normally the first Monday in April. There will be no more opening days in Montreal. Generally, then, each future opening day will be "Blue Monday," in Montreal and darker still that that moment in 1981.

At about 10:45 PM at Stade Olympique on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Expos breathed Canadian air for the last time. The 9-1 loss to Florida in the final game ever in Montreal was over. Catcher Brian Schneider lingered and shook hands with the fans. Former Expos pitcher, and long time roving coach, Claude Raymond hugged TSN (Canada's ESPN) interviewer Michael Whelan. "It's probably the saddest day of my life as a ball player. I'd been in the game for 50 years and suddenly the game was getting out of my city," said Raymond.

The Expos had been sentenced to die at the end of the 2002 season. They were a dead team walking. But it was an agonizing wait for the end to come.

## THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

Opening night of the 2002 baseball season in Montreal was widely believed to be the last in Montreal. As reported by J.S. Trzcienski of the Montreal Expos News on the MLB web site, comedian Bill Cosby was an invited guest of Montreal manager Frank Robinson. Aware that tiny crowds were now the norm at Expos home games and amazed at the crowd of over 35,000, Cosby asked, "Does anybody tell them, 'No, that's not the last game'?"

"How many hotdogs do they usually pre-cook up here—five?" "But it's quite interesting to just sit around and watch nine innings of ball, then get up and casually go around and pick up the balls that've been knocked into the stands." But would the fans miss the Expos? "What else are those 35,000 people going to do once a year?" he asked. \*

That was not funny to the Expos loyal fans. Not so long ago they had supported their team admirably. Now the team was being operated in stasis mode by Major League Baseball itself. There were only memories left, and a chance to say goodbye. There was an air of finality.

At season's end, on Monday, September 30, 2002, for what was expected to be the Expos' final game and final appearance in Montreal, lines formed at ticket windows an hour before the game. The walk-up crowd of 7000 swelled the attendance to 25,178—the third-largest of the year.

The Expos beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-2. There was a standing ovation for Vladimir Guerrero when he brought his 3-year-old son

out to right field with him in the ninth. Both tipped their caps.

"We really enjoyed playing up here," Manager Robinson told the crowd after the game. "No matter what size the crowd, you were always enthusiastic and we fed off your support." \* Then there were fireworks. Expos past and present milled onto the field. Some threw baseballs into the stands.

Montreal's total attendance for 2002 was 812,545, the lowest in the National League. The Miami Marlins final home "official" attendance of 28,599 pushed them barely ahead of the Expos for the year. The actual crowd at Joe Robbie Stadium appeared to be considerably smaller than the final reported number.

## A REPRIEVE OF SORTS

But the final game of 2002 was not the last in Montreal. There was a stay of execution. In 2003 and again in 2004, under the continued caretaker management of Major League Baseball, the Expos played a split season with fifty-nine games in Montreal and twenty-two games in Puerto Rico, a curious Major League Club Med arrangement with ticket prices more typical of the NFL than MLB. The Major League Experience—Up Close and Personal. The 22 games in San Juan drew 312,882 pushing the Expos 2003 attendance to 1,025,639. But even with the split venue arrangement attendance for the lame duck franchise in the final season, 2004, fell to 748,549. Attendance at the games at Bithorne Stadium fell to 217,005.



## WHAT WENT RIGHT

From Gene Mauch to Felipe Alou, the field managers were capable. The farm system was extraordinarily productive. The club exceeded the league average in attendance in 1970, just their second season, and every year from 1979 until 1983, drawing over 2 million 4 times. This was not the general profile of a team in trouble.

## WHAT WENT WRONG?

The signature most painful on the field moment in the history of the Expos was the "Blue Monday," loss in the 1981 playoffs. Ironically, that season was interrupted by a two month player strike. Montreal earned its spot in the playoffs by claiming the second half eastern division title.

But it was another player strike in 1994 and the off the field events following that event that virtually devastated the hopes and dreams of Expos fans.

On August 11, 1994, the Montreal Expos lost at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, 4-0. But they had won 20 of 23 games and at 74 and 40 led the National League East by six games. 1,276,250 fans witnessed their club prematurely finish the season with a .649 winning percentage. Felipe Alou was named Manager of the year. There were 29 home games remaining. But a strike wiped out the final six weeks of the season, as well as the playoffs and World Series. Soon after, the team started ridding itself of its highest-paid players. This was the beginning of the end. But it was not the end. The team on the field was resilient, rebounding to a second place finish in the NL East in 1996. Vladimir Guerrero made his major league

debut in September, 1996. Jose Vidro and Orlando Cabrera debuted in 1997. There was still talent left. The club finished second, again, in 2002.

## LACK OF LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR THE EXPOS

But the troubles in Montreal began before 1994.

The 1991 sale of the team by the aging Bronfman may have been the beginning of the end for the Expos in Montreal. With his Seagram's empire shrinking, he no longer had deep enough pockets to support the baseball enterprise. And there was a lack of interest from big business and/or investors. "There were many suites at Olympic Stadium," said Jacques Doucet, long time French Language broadcaster, "but few takers."

In order to assure the Expos remained in the city he sold the team to Claude Brochu and a piece-meal consortium of investors. Though the on-field team remained competitive, the consortium was not committed for the long-term. They refused to invest in the team, even after decent attendance numbers. That same year a large chunk of concrete fell from the Stadium roof. The symbolism was ominous.

## THE PROBLEMS:

- Montreal was an American baseball outpost in the heart of a Canadian hockey hotbed.
- American born players felt uncomfortable in French speaking Quebec. This statement is not incontrovertible. Certainly it is not true that all American born players felt that way. But the Expos seemed to be victimized by free agent departures more than most teams. However, some foreign born players, like Nicaraguan Dennis Martinez and Japanese Tomo Okha, were more than comfortable in Montreal. Both learned French though they were very little inclined to learn or speak English.
- The unfavorable exchange rate between the US and Canadian dollar and higher Canadian taxes was bad for ownership and players.
- Olympic Stadium was a billion dollar white elephant with a poor artificial playing surface and a retractable fabric roof that suffers frequent mechanical failures.
- The Canadian National Government, Quebec province, and the local Montreal officials ultimately could not reach agreement with the Expos ownership over funding a new downtown ballpark. And there was little pressure from the local citizenry to force them to do so. The spin off benefits argument was ultimately not persuasive enough.
- The Expos had Poor radio and TV contracts. In 2000 Jeffrey Loria pulled the Expos off TV and English speaking radio

entirely. That move coincided with Labatt Brewery ending its sponsorship of the Expos, which had been worth about \$1.3 million a year. Labatt was also a potential financial backer for a new ball park. "The media environment was such that there was no competition to broadcast the games, so the only TV station slightly interested would dictate its own price," said Alain Usereau, sports journalist and broadcaster in Montreal.

- Strained relations with the fans because of the 1994 player strike and subsequent loss of the opportunity to appear in the 1994 World Series, which was never played.
- It was hard for fans to bond with, or to remain loyal to, a team that was constantly in a state of flux. In their last decade, Montreal was, in a sense, a major league proving ground. Unlike the Kansas City A's, who were exclusively a Yankee's farm team from 1955 to 1961, the Expos' showcase of young talent, and there was a lot of it, was available to all other teams. By trading stars, Montreal received needed cash and/or prospects in return. Players lost to free agency were replaced with draft picks.

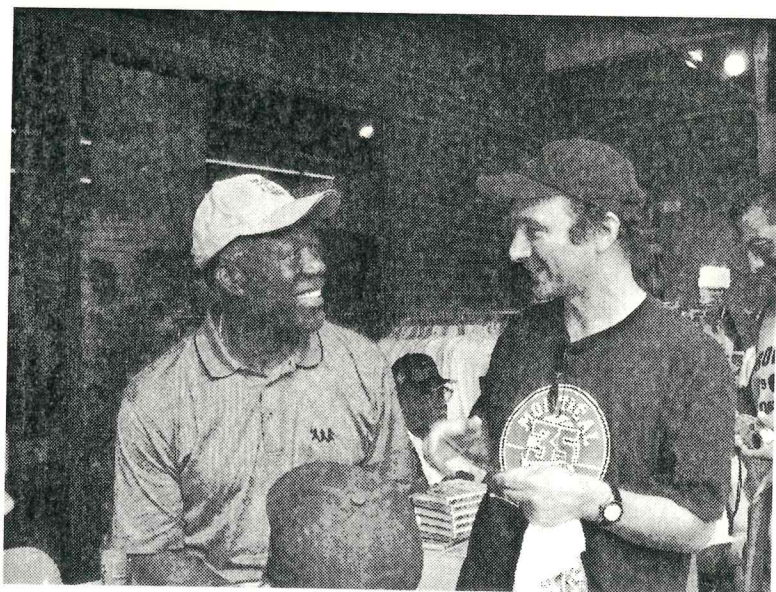


## BREACHES OF FAITH

- December 5, 1973—Mike Marshall Traded by Montreal to the Los Angeles Dodgers for Willie Davis. Marshall went on to win a Cy Young award with Los Angeles.
- December 4, 1974—Ken Singleton and Mike Torrez Traded by Montreal to the Baltimore Orioles for Dave McNally, Rich Coggins, and Bill Kirkpatrick (minors) Singleton and Torrez were both solid performers for the Orioles. McNally retired so that he could challenge the reserve clause.
- December 10, 1984—Gary Carter Traded by Montreal to the New York Mets for Hubie Brooks, Mike Fitzgerald, Herm Winningham, and Floyd Youmans.
- November 12, 1986—Andre Dawson Granted Free Agency.
- Nov. 12, 1986—Tim Lincecum Granted Free Agency.
- February 3, 1987—Jeff Reardon Traded by Montreal with Tom Nieto to the Minnesota Twins for Neal Heaton, Yorkis Perez, Jeff Reed, and Al Cardwood (minors).
- November 13, 1989—Hubie Brooks Granted Free Agency.
- November 13, 1989 Mark Langston Granted Free Agency. On May 25, 1989 Montreal acquired Langston from the Seattle Mariners for Randy Johnson, Brian Holman, and Gene Harris. The Seattle Mariners sent Mike Campbell (July 31, 1989) to Montreal to complete the trade.
- November 13, 1989—Pascual Perez Granted Free Agency.
- October 27, 1992—Andres Galarraga Granted Free Agency.
- October 24, 1994—Larry Walker Granted Free Agency.

- April 5, 1995—John Wetteland Traded by Montreal to the New York Yankees for Fernando Seguignol and cash.
- April 6, 1995—Marquis Grissom Traded by Montreal to the Atlanta Braves for Tony Tarasco, Esteban Yan, and Roberto Kelly.
- January 10, 1996—Wil Cordero Traded by Montreal with Bryan Eversgerd to the Boston Red Sox for Shayne Bennett, Rheal Cormier, and Ryan McGuire.
- December 7, 1996—Moises Alou Granted Free Agency.
- November 18, 1997—Pedro Martinez Traded by Montreal to the Boston Red Sox for a player to be named later and Carl Pavano. The Boston Red Sox sent Tony Armas Jr. to the Montreal to complete the trade.
- December 12, 1997—Henry Rodriguez Traded by Montreal to the Chicago Cubs for Miguel Batista.
- October 26, 1998—Tim Lincecum Granted Free Agency.
- May 31, 2002—Felipe Alou fired as Manager.
- July 30, 2002—Cliff Floyd Traded by Montreal to the Boston Red Sox for Sun-Woo Kim and Seung Song (minors).
- Oct 27, 2003—Vladimir Guerrero Granted Free Agency.
- December 5, 2003 Javier Vazquez Traded by Montreal to the New York Yankees for Nick Johnson and Randy Choate.
- July 31, 2004—Orlando Cabrera traded to the Boston Red Sox as part of a 4-team trade with the Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, and Minnesota Twins. The Cubs send Brendan Harris, Alex Gonzalez, and Francis Beltran to the Expos.





*Expos fan Marc Robitaille with pitcher Mudcat Grant at the Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies in July 2003. Photo by Sylvie Lemieux Grant was the starter for the first Expos game ever on April 14, 1969.*

## FRANCHISE HIGHLIGHTS

- April 8, 1969—Maury Wills, at short and leading off on Opening Day, strikes out in his first at bat against Tom Seaver but has three hits and a steal as the Expos beat the Mets at Shea, 11-10. Wills also had the first hit and first run scored. The starting pitcher was Jim “Mudcat” Grant. Bob Bailey had the first RBI. Dan McGinn, a pitcher, became the first Expo player to hit a home run, going deep off Hall of Famer Tom Seaver. Don Shaw got the win in relief. Carroll Sembera got the first save.
- April 14, 1969—First Major League game played in Canada. The Expos win their home opener at Jarry Park beating the St. Louis Cardinals, 8-7, thanks to a Mack Jones 3-run HR.
- April 17, 1969—Bill Stoneman hurls a no hit game.
- 1970 Carl Morton is named NL Rookie of the Year
- October 2, 1972—Bill Stoneman hurls a no hit game
- July 13, 1973—Hal Breedon pinch hits a homer in both games of a double header in Atlanta.
- December 16, 1976—Montreal Trades Woodie Fryman and Dale Murray to the Cincinnati Reds for Tony Perez and Will McEnaney
- 1977—Andre Dawson is named NL Rookie of the Year
- 1978—Ross Grimsley becomes the first and only Expo pitcher to win 20 games
- 1980—Ron LeFlore leads the NL in Stolen Bases
- April 25th, 1980—Larry Parrish homers three times in a game for the third time at Fulton-County Stadium in Atlanta. He also hit three homers at Atlanta on July 30th, 1978, and at St. Louis on May 29th, 1977.
- May 10, 1981—Charlie Lea hurls a no hit game
- 1981, 1984—Gary Carter named All-Star Game MVP

- 1981-84—Tim Lincecum leads the NL in Stolen Bases
- 1982—Al Oliver wins the NL batting title with a .331 batting average
  - January 20, 1984—Pete Rose Signs as a Free Agent with the Expos. Get his 4000th hit as an Expo.
  - 1986—Andre Dawson wins the NL batting title with a .334 batting average
    - 1987—Tim Lincecum named All-Star Game MVP
    - August 8, 1990—Expos trade Zane Smith to the Pirates for Moises Alou, Scott Ruskin, and Willie Greene
    - 1991, 1992—Marquis Grissom leads the NL in Stolen Bases
      - 1991—Dennis Martinez leads the National League in ERA (2.39), complete games (9) and shutouts (5)
      - July 28, 1991—Dennis Martinez hurls a perfect game against the Dodgers in LA
      - June 3, 1995—Dennis Martinez makes a second bid for a perfect game, retiring 27 seven straight Padres at Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego, losing the no hitter in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning
      - 1997—Pedro Martinez wins Cy Young Award winning 17 games and posting a 1.90 ERA
      - July 23, 2000—Tony Perez inducted into Hall of Fame
      - July 27, 2003—Gary Carter inducted into Hall of Fame as an Expo

## THE NAME EXPOS

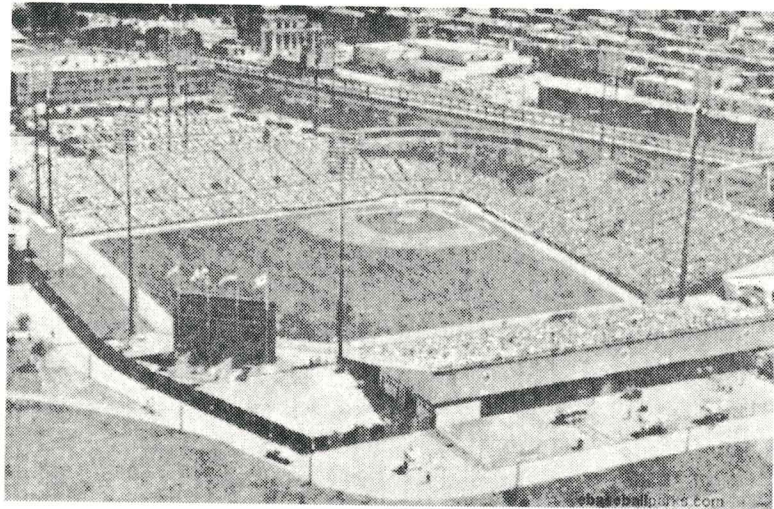
A successful World's Fair and Exposition, hosted in Montreal in 1967, inspired the name "Expos." The initials "ELB" on the original caps, stood for Expos Le Baseball.

## THE HISTORY—YEAR BY YEAR

The thirty-six year run of the Expos in Montreal was not as long as the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, or the Giants were in Manhattan. The Braves were in Boston longer. The Browns and the A's had longer tenures in St. Louis and Philadelphia. The Senators were in Washington for 75 years. Nonetheless, there is a lot of baseball history in Montreal. A main stay in the International League for decades, Montreal was the Triple-A farm team of the Dodgers.

When the club joined the National League as an expansion team in 1969, Charles Bronfman of Seagram Distillery was the owner. The most notable original Expo was flaming red haired Rusty Staub, "Le Grand Orange." Third baseman Coco Laboy, whose name seemed uniquely French Canadian, was also widely popular. The name John Boccabella was another favorite of the fans and the stadium announcer. The expansion Expos enthusiastically began their first season in the National League on April 8, 1969. The first Canadian-based team in major league baseball disappointed an opening day crowd of 44,591 at Shea Stadium in New York, beating the Mets 11-10. Laboy hit a three-run homer in the eighth. However, they won just 52 games.





### **Jarry Park.**

#### ***The Expos Home for their first 8 seasons.***

*First base was parallel to Rue Faillon. Third base was parallel to the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks. Beyond right field was Boulevard St. Laurent and a public swimming pool. Beyond left field was Rue Jarry. Photo Courtesy of Daniel Papillon Co-Chair Quebec Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research*

## **JARRY PARK ( PARC JARRY)**

The Expos "temporary" functional home for 8 years was originally a 3000 seat recreational park just 4 miles from downtown. The grandstand was expanded to a capacity of 21,00 and with an additional leftfield bleacher seating for 7250 more. There was a scoreboard in right. It didn't have the ambience of San Francisco's McCovey Cove but there was a large public pool beyond the right field fence and long homeruns did splash down there.

On the First base side the stadium abutted Rue Faillon; right field, Boulevard St. Laurent left field, Rue Jarry; and third base, the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks.

The symmetrical grass field dimensions were 340 feet down the lines and 420 feet to deepest center. The dimensions were only modified slightly during the park's years in use.

## **THE FIRST OPENING DAY—THE FIRST TEN YEARS**

On Apr 14, 1969 in Montreal, 29,184 fans watched the Expos play their first home game at Jarry Park and beat the Cardinals 8-7 in spite of Dal Maxvill's grand slam against Larry Jaster. Because outfield Mack Jones hit a three-run homer and had five runs batted in that day, the bleachers in left became known as "Jonesville." The Expos lost every game they played in May that year, en route to a 52-110 record. .



## A STEADY HAND

Until 1976 the Expos were managed by veteran Gene Mauch. The Expos showed steady improvement, winning 21 more games in its second season and exceeding the NL average in attendance drawing 1,424,683. In 1973 the Expos finished fourth but just 3 ½ games out of first. Ken Singleton led the league in on base percentage at .429. Mauch was voted Manager of the Year. But he had raised the level of expectations. Every silver lining has a cloud. At the end of the season the team traded future Cy Young Award winning pitcher Mike Marshall, who led the team in wins and in ERA over the past two seasons, to the LA Dodgers for veteran Willie Davis.

With a virtually identical record the Expos finished 4<sup>th</sup> again in 1974, but 8 ½ games back.

Notables on the roster were pitchers Steve Rogers and Mike Torrez, Hall of Fame Catcher Gary Carter, infielders Tim Foli, Ron Fairly and Ron Hunt, and outfielders, Larry Parrish, Warren Cromartie, Boots Day, Willie Davis, and Ken Singleton.

After a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in 1975 enthusiasm for Mauch began to wane. Karl Kuehl became manager in 1976 and was himself replaced by Charlie Fox late in the season. Having embarked on a youth movement that would eventually pay dividends, the club won only 55 games.

Essentially they were back to square one.



*Olympic Stadium.*

*The Expos home for their last 25 seasons.*

*First base was parallel to Avenue Pierre-de-Coubertin. Third base was parallel to Boulevard Pie IX. Beyond right field was Boulevard Viau. Beyond Left field was Rue Sherbrooke.*

*Photo from Wikipedia.*





***The first game at Olympic Stadium,  
Opening Day, April 15, 1977.***

*7 former major league players born in Quebec. From left to right: Gus Dugas, Tim Harkness, Ray Daviault, Georges Maranda, Ron Piché, Claude Raymond and Jean-Pierre Roy.*

## OLYMPIC STADIUM

There was a record opening day attendance on April 15, 1977. 57,592 fans gathered to christen Olympic Stadium as a baseball venue, they would go on to lose, 7-2, to Steve Carlton and the Phillies. On Apr 20, during the inaugural home stand, Gary Carter became the first Expos' hitter to blast three home runs in the same game.

The left field fence paralleled Rue Sherbrooke Third base abutted Boulevard Pie IX, and first base, Avenue Pierre-de-Coubertin; right field fence paralleled Boulevard Viau.

It was 325 feet down the lines in left and right and 404 feet to dead center.

Designed for the 1976 Olympic Games, Olympic Stadium was not completed on time due to a strike by construction workers. The Stadium's signature 556-foot inclined tower and kevlar roofing were not completed until 1987. It took another 2 years before the roof became retractable, and yet another year before the exterior cable car running from the Stadium's base to the top of the tower was inaugurated (the following November.)

A chunk of the concrete roof fell September 8, 1991. A support beam snapped. No one was injured, but the Expos had to move their final 13 home games of that season to other cities.

## DISCIPLINE

Williams, a veteran manager, was a disciplinarian, very unlike Mauch. Nonetheless, he brought a return of managerial stability. The team finished fifth in 1977 (74-87) and fourth in 1978 (74-86). In 1978 Ross Grimsley became the first and only Expos' pitcher to reach 20 wins in a season.



In 1979 Williams guided the team to their first winning season, a franchise high 95 wins. The club finished just a game behind the Pirates. Rusty Staub returned to the Expos at the end of the Season. With this success, Williams raised the level of expectations. The roster included holdovers Rogers, Carter, and Parrish as well as pitchers Ross Grimsley and Bill Gullickson, Bill Lee, and Woodie Fryman, infielders Randy Bass, Tony Perez, and Chris Speir, and outfielders Andre Dawson, Tim Lincecum, Warren Cromartie, and Ellis Valentine.

## THE 1980'S

In 1980, behind fan favorites Carter and Dawson, the Expos battled Philadelphia for the Eastern Division crown in a dramatic late-season series. Montreal was abuzz with baseball talk about the three-game showdown.

Mike Schmidt's two-run homer in the 11<sup>th</sup> inning of the second game of the series gave the eventual World Series champion the title. The runner-up Expos finished with a 90-72 record.

The next October the Expos again made the playoffs. But Manager Williams did not reap the full harvest of his good work, being replaced in the second half of the 1981 split season by Jim Fanning. On the final day of the season the Expos defeated the New York Mets, beating out the St. Louis Cardinals by a half game to earn the 2nd half title. In the Eastern Division Series the Expos defeated the first half Champion Philadelphia Phillies in 5 games to advance to the first ever International LCS and the rendezvous with Rick Monday.

In 1982, Fanning's only full season, veteran first baseman Al Oliver topped the NL with a .331 batting average, and tied for the league lead with 109 RBIs. Rogers had the lowest earned run average, 2.40, in the major leagues. Montreal finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NL east.

Bill Virdon replaced Fanning as manager in 1983. The club finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, again. In 1984, despite the addition of Pete Rose who collected his 4000<sup>th</sup> hit on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Olympic Stadium, Montreal finished a disappointing 5<sup>th</sup>. It was their first losing season since 1979. Fanning returned as manager for the final 30 games of the season. In a stunning post season move, Gary Carter was traded to the New York Mets.

## STABILITY

Once again managerial stability returned in 1985 in the person of the Mauch like Buck Rodgers. Again there was steady improvement on the field. The club finished a solid third in 1985 as Andres Galarraga established himself as an emerging star. 1986 saw the Expos lose Andre Dawson to free agency during spring training and bull pen ace Jeff Reardon was traded to Minnesota before he could become a free agent.

Tim Lincecum also became a free agent but resigned with the Expos in 1987, anchoring the outfield defense and winning the NL batting title. Rodgers led Expos to 91 victories and another 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. Pascual Perez and Dennis Martinez led the pitching staff. Andres Galarraga, Hubie Brooks, and Tim Wallach were infield stand outs.

The Expos finished third in 1988. Martinez won 15 games with an ERA of 2.72. Galarraga hit 29 homers and was the Expos player of the year.



Needing a veteran left handed starter for a push for the pennant in 1989, the Expos made a huge gamble. They traded their top pitching prospect, lefty Randy Johnson, to the Seattle Mariners for ace lefty Mark Langston. Montreal was in first place through much of August but fell to 4th Place in the seasons' final month. They finished with a disappointing 81-81 record. Following the season, Langston signed as a free agent with the California Angels leaving the Expos high and dry.

Tim Wallach (21 homers, .296 BA, and 98 RBIs) and "Oil Can" Boyd (10-6, 2.93 ERA) led Montreal to another solid 3rd place finish in 1990. But the Expos began yet another period of transition by dealing away Tim Lincecum to the Chicago White Sox.

### THE 1990'S

In a tumultuous 1991, Marquis Grissom, and Larry Walker took over for the departed Tim Lincecum, Manager Rogers was replaced by Tom Runnels, and original owner Bronfman sold the team to a group of local investors led by Claude Brochu an executive at Bronfman's Seagram's Distillery. As the team fell to last place, a concrete pillar collapsed at Olympic Stadium, forcing the Expos to play the entire last month on the road. Nevertheless there were moments of excellence. On Friday July 26th, in Los Angeles, Mark Gardner pitched 9 innings of No Hit Baseball against the Dodgers before losing the game and the No-hitter in the 10th inning. And just two just 2 days later matched against the same Dodgers, Dennis Martinez pitched the first perfect game in Expos history.

### CLAUDE BROCHU PREVENTS A MOVE TO ARIZONA

Claude Brochu had been named president of the Expos baseball club by Charles Bronfman in 1986, replacing John McHale.

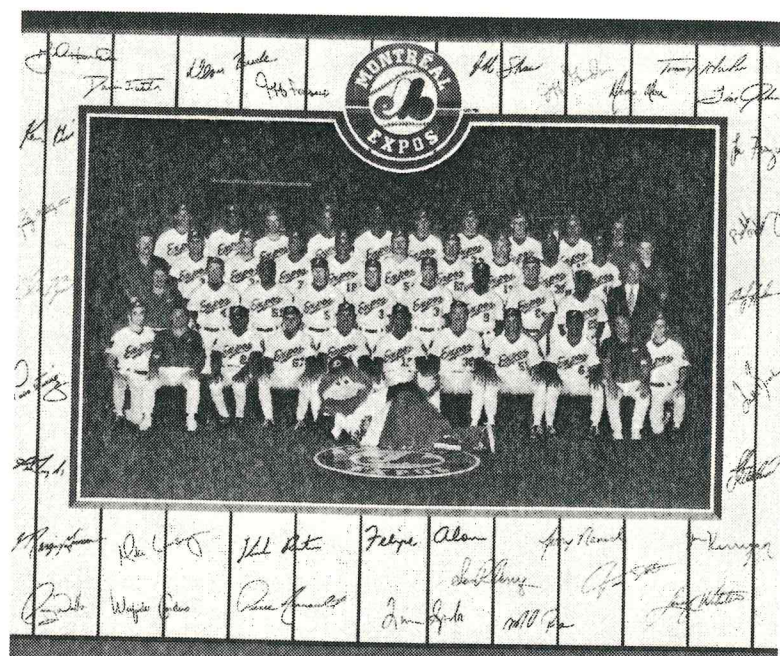
On June 14 1991, he formed a group of thirteen investors to buy the team and prevent a threatened move to Arizona. His 7% share of the team cost him 2 million dollars. His plan to save the team from bankruptcy included building a new stadium in downtown Montreal.

### FELIPE ALOU—THE MAGIC TOUCH

After a slow start in 1992 Manager Runnels was replaced by longtime Expos coach, and instructor Felipe Alou. The Expos made a run for the Eastern Division Title, finishing 9 games out with a solid 87-75 record. Hall of Fame Catcher Gary Carter returned to play his final season in the place where his career began.

In 1993 the Expos made another serious push for the NL Eastern Division Title, winning 94 games. But they fell three games short.





**The 1994 Montreal Expos. Best record in Baseball**

4th Row: Tim Spehr (2), Ken Hill (44), John Wetteland (57), Moises Alou (18), Cliff Floyd (30), Rod Henderson (20), Larry Walker (33), Kirk Rueter (42), Freddie Benavides, (15), Satiris Athanasiou.

3rd Row: Pat Ross, Gil Heredia (34), Jeff Shaw (31), Lou Frazier (7), Wil Cordero (12), Tim Scott (54), Butch Henry (27), Jeff Fassero (13), Randy Milligan (39), Pedro Martinez (45), Patrick Treponier.

2nd Row: John Silverman, Jeff Gardner (4), Mel Rojas (51), Sean Berry (5), Mike Lansing (3), Denis Boucher (38), Marquis Grissom (9), Darrin Fletcher (24), Lenny Webster (25), Erik Ostling.

1st Row: Scott Abramovitch, Mike Kozak, Tommy Harper (2), Pierre Arsenault (67), Tim Johnson, Felipe Alou (17), Joe Kerrigan (32) Luis Pujols (55), Jerry Manuel (6), Ron McClain, Jamie Abramovitch.

And in Front: Youppi

Photo by Gilles Corbeil -Kodak- Jean Coutu

Montreal Game by Game Results 2004  
DATE TEAM

		SCORE	W-L	PITCHER	ATTENDANCE	LOCATION
Tuesday	04/06/04 at Florida Marlins	3-4	L 0-1	Ayala L (0-1)	55,315	
Wednesday	04/07/04 at Florida Marlins	3-2	W 1-1	Vargas W (1-0)	17,522	
Thursday	04/08/04 at Florida Marlins	0-3	L 1-2	Ohka L (0-1)	18,121	
Friday	04/09/04 vs New York Mets	2-3	L 1-3	Ayala L (0-2)	14,739	PR OPENING DAY
Saturday	04/10/04 vs New York Mets	1-0	W 2-3	Patterson W (1-0)	11,957	PR
Sunday	04/11/04 vs New York Mets	1-4	L 2-4	Hernandez L (0-1)	10,623	PR
Tuesday	04/13/04 vs Florida Marlins	0-5	L 2-5	Vargas L (1-1)	14,520	PR
Wednesday	04/14/04 vs Florida Marlins	0-9	L 2-6	Ohka L (0-2)	13,180	PR
Thursday	04/15/04 vs Florida Marlins	0-3	L 2-7	Day L (0-1)	8,494	PR
Friday	04/16/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	2-4	L 2-8	Hernandez L (0-2)	39,613	
Saturday	04/17/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	3-6	L 2-9	Patterson L (1-1)	42,931	
Sunday	04/18/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	4-5	L 2-10	Biddle L (0-1)	43,791	
Monday	04/19/04 at New York Mets	1-4	L 2-11	Ohka L (0-3)	14,002	
Tuesday	04/20/04 at New York Mets	2-1	W 3-11	Day W (1-1)	14,513	
Wednesday	04/21/04 at New York Mets	2-1	W 4-11	Hernandez W (1-2)	23,565	
Thursday	04/22/04 at New York Mets	2-3	L 4-12	Bentz L (0-1)	15,062	
Friday	04/23/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	6-8	L 4-13	Bentz L (0-2)	30,112	MTL OPENING DAY
Saturday	04/24/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	0-7	L 4-14	Ohka L (0-4)	6,899	
Sunday	04/25/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	2-0	W 5-14	Day W (2-1)	8,267	
Monday	04/26/04 at San Diego Padres	2-3	L 5-15	Ayala L (0-3)	25,438	
Tuesday	04/27/04 at San Diego Padres	0-3	L 5-16	Patterson L (1-2)	25,473	
Wednesday	04/28/04 at San Diego Padres	4-5	L 5-17	Ayala L (0-4)	24,079	
Thursday	04/29/04 at San Diego Padres	1-2	L 5-18	Ohka L (0-5)	24,581	
Friday	04/30/04 at Los Angeles Dodgers	4-13	L 5-19	Day L (2-2)	54,958	
Saturday	05/01/04 at Los Angeles Dodgers	4-5	L 5-20	Ayala L (0-5)	52,900	
Sunday	05/02/04 at Los Angeles Dodgers	6-4	W 6-20	Kim W (1-0)	35,351	
Tuesday	05/04/04 vs Colorado Rockies	10-4	W 7-20	Vargas W (2-1)	4,001	
Wednesday	05/05/04 vs Colorado Rockies	0-2	L 7-21	Day L (2-3)	3,609	
Thursday	05/06/04 vs Colorado Rockies	3-1	W 8-21	Hernandez W (2-2)	8,851	
Friday	05/07/04 vs St. Louis Cardinals	4-2	W 9-21	Kim W (2-0)	5,332	
Saturday	05/08/04 vs St. Louis Cardinals	2-0	W 10-21	Ohka W (1-5)	5,611	
Sunday	05/09/04 vs St. Louis Cardinals	2-5	L 10-22	Vargas L (2-2)	12,301	
Tuesday	05/11/04 at Milwaukee Brewers	5-8	L 10-23	Tucker L (0-1)	10,761	
Wednesday	05/12/04 at Milwaukee Brewers	3-4	L 10-24	Day L (2-4)	10,803	
Thursday	05/13/04 at Milwaukee Brewers	4-7	L 10-25	Kim L (2-1)	14,972	
Friday	05/14/04 at Arizona Diamondbacks	4-3	W 11-25	Cordero W (1-0)	27,118	
Saturday	05/15/04 at Arizona Diamondbacks	5-0	W 12-25	Vargas W (3-2)	32,379	
Sunday	05/16/04 at Arizona Diamondbacks	6-1	W 13-25	Hernandez W (3-2)	32,629	
Tuesday	05/18/04 vs Milwaukee Brewers	3-2	W 14-25	Day W (3-4)	8,387	PR
Wednesday	05/19/04 vs Milwaukee Brewers	3-6	L 14-26	Kim L (2-2)	8,157	PR
Thursday	05/20/04 vs Milwaukee Brewers	2-3	L 14-27	Biddle L (0-2)	8,941	PR
Friday	05/21/04 vs San Francisco Giants	5-6	L 14-28	Hernandez L (3-3)	14,325	PR
Saturday	05/22/04 vs San Francisco Giants	2-7	L 14-29	Fikac L (0-1)	16,836	PR
Monday	05/24/04 vs Atlanta Braves	0-5	L 14-30	Day L (3-5)	4,675	
Tuesday	05/25/04 vs Atlanta Braves	3-1	W 15-30	Ohka W (2-5)	4,235	
Wednesday	05/26/04 vs Atlanta Braves	1-6	L 15-31	Hernandez L (3-4)	4,544	
Friday	05/28/04 vs Cincinnati Reds	6-7	L 15-32	Vargas L (3-3)	7,058	
Saturday	05/29/04 vs Cincinnati Reds	1-4	L 15-33	Day L (3-6)	7,913	
Sunday	05/30/04 vs Cincinnati Reds	6-2	W 16-33	Ohka W (3-5)	9,745	
Monday	05/31/04 at Atlanta Braves	2-8	L 15-34	Hernandez L (3-5)	24,945	
Tuesday	06/01/04 at Atlanta Braves	6-7	L 15-35	Biddle L (0-3)	20,271	
Wednesday	06/02/04 at Atlanta Braves	8-4	W 17-35	Vargas W (4-3)	21,055	
Friday	06/04/04 at Cincinnati Reds	4-2	W 18-35	Day W (4-6)	32,701	
Saturday	06/05/04 at Cincinnati Reds	3-6	L 18-36	Cordero L (1-1)	40,545	
Sunday	06/06/04 at Cincinnati Reds	5-6	L 18-37	Biddle L (0-4)	31,814	
Tuesday	06/08/04 at Kansas City Royals	2-4	L 18-38	Armas, Jr. L (0-1)	15,209	
Thursday	06/10/04 at Kansas City Royals	8-0	W 19-38	Day W (5-6)	16,891	
Thursday	06/10/04 at Kansas City Royals	7-2	W 20-38	Kim W (3-2)	16,891	
Friday	06/11/04 at Seattle Mariners	0-1	L 20-39	Hernandez L (3-6)	32,826	
Saturday	06/12/04 at Seattle Mariners	0-3	L 20-40	Vargas L (4-4)	36,562	



Sunday	06/13/04 at Seattle Mariners	1-8	L 20-41 Armas, Jr. L (0-2)	43,339	
Tuesday	06/15/04 vs Minnesota Twins	2-8	L 20-42 Day L (5-7)	4,557	
Wednesday	06/16/04 vs Minnesota Twins	4-5	L 20-43 Fikac L (0-2)	3,763	
Thursday	06/17/04 vs Minnesota Twins	4-6	L 20-44 Hernandez L (3-7)	10,044	
Friday	06/18/04 vs Chicago White Sox	7-11	L 20-45 Ayala L (0-6)	4,576	
Saturday	06/19/04 vs Chicago White Sox	17-14	W 21-45 Fikac W (1-2)	18,414	
Sunday	06/20/04 vs Chicago White Sox	4-2	W 22-45 Cordero W (2-1)	6,546	
Tuesday	06/22/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	5-2	W 23-45 Hernandez W (4-7)	4,564	
Wednesday	06/23/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	2-5	L 23-46 Kim L (3-3)	4,209	
Thursday	06/24/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	3-2	W 24-46 Armas, Jr. W (1-2)	11,855	
Friday	06/25/04 at Toronto Blue Jays	1-3	L 24-47 Day L (5-8)	16,484	
Saturday	06/26/04 at Toronto Blue Jays	5-10	L 24-48 Downs L (0-1)	23,875	
Sunday	06/27/04 at Toronto Blue Jays	9-4	W 25-48 Hernandez W (5-7)	25,915	
Monday	06/28/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	6-14	L 25-49 Kim L (3-4)	39,444	
Tuesday	06/29/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	7-17	L 25-50 Hill L (0-1)	35,390	
Wednesday	06/30/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	6-3	W 26-50 Horgan W (1-0)	40,407	
Thursday	07/01/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	5-10	L 26-51 Downs L (0-2)	43,246	
Friday	07/02/04 vs Toronto Blue Jays	2-0	W 27-51 Hernandez W (6-7)	8,220	PR
Saturday	07/03/04 vs Toronto Blue Jays	0-2	L 27-52 Armas, Jr. L (1-3)	8,831	PR
Sunday	07/04/04 vs Toronto Blue Jays	6-4	W 28-52 Hill W (1-1)	8,279	PR
Monday	07/05/04 vs Atlanta Braves	4-11	L 28-53 Day L (5-9)	13,122	PR
Tuesday	07/06/04 vs Atlanta Braves	0-1	L 28-54 Downs L (0-3)	7,697	PR
Wednesday	07/07/04 vs Atlanta Braves	2-14	L 28-55 Hernandez L (6-8)	8,534	PR
Thursday	07/08/04 vs Pittsburgh Pirates	2-1	W 29-55 Ayala W (1-6)	7,746	PR
Friday	07/09/04 vs Pittsburgh Pirates	0-11	L 29-56 Hill L (1-2)	7,436	PR
Saturday	07/10/04 vs Pittsburgh Pirates	4-0	W 30-56 Biddle W (1-4)	8,780	PR
Sunday	07/11/04 vs Pittsburgh Pirates	2-1	W 31-56 Downs W (1-3)	8,101	PR
Thursday	07/15/04 at Atlanta Braves	0-8	L 31-57 Hernandez L (6-9)	33,883	
Friday	07/16/04 at Atlanta Braves	5-1	W 32-57 Horgan W (2-0)	26,424	
Saturday	07/17/04 at Atlanta Braves	2-6	L 32-58 Bentz L (0-3)	34,296	
Sunday	07/18/04 at Atlanta Braves	5-16	L 32-59 Downs L (1-4)	23,952	
Monday	07/19/04 at Pittsburgh Pirates	6-2	W 33-59 Horgan W (3-0)	14,787	
Tuesday	07/20/04 at Pittsburgh Pirates	1-2	L 33-60 Hernandez L (6-10)	18,075	
Wednesday	07/21/04 at New York Mets	4-5	L 33-61 Horgan L (3-1)	30,227	
Tuesday	07/22/04 at New York Mets	4-1	W 34-61 Ayala W (2-6)	27,637	
Friday	07/23/04 vs Florida Marlins	2-1	W 35-61 Armas, Jr. W (2-3)	6,407	
Saturday	07/24/04 vs Florida Marlins	6-2	W 36-61 Biddle W (2-4)	7,229	
Sunday	07/25/04 vs Florida Marlins	6-4	W 37-61 Hernandez W (7-10)	9,688	
Monday	07/26/04 vs New York Mets	19-10	W 38-6 Ayala W (3-6)	6,643	
Tuesday	07/27/04 vs New York Mets	2-4	L 38-62 Day L (5-10)	7,147	
Wednesday	07/28/04 vs New York Mets	7-4	W 39-62 Tucker W (1-1)	6,852	
Tuesday	07/29/04 vs New York Mets	1-10	L 39-63 Biddle L (2-5)	20,042	
Friday	07/30/04 at Florida Marlins	9-0	W 40-63 Hernandez W (8-10)	16,441	
Saturday	07/31/04 at Florida Marlins	8-5	W 41-63 Biddle W (3-5)	21,562	
Tuesday	08/03/04 at St. Louis Cardinals	10-6	W 42-63 Cordero W (3-1)	33,696	
Wednesday	08/04/04 at St. Louis Cardinals	4-5	L 42-64 Cordero L (3-2)	35,779	
Thursday	08/05/04 at St. Louis Cardinals	1-2	L 42-65 Ayala L (3-7)	31,961	
Friday	08/06/04 at Houston Astros	0-4	L 42-66 Biddle L (3-6)	35,921	
Saturday	08/07/04 at Houston Astros	8-3	W 43-66 Rauch W (1-0)	39,840	
Sunday	08/08/04 at Houston Astros	5-2	W 44-66 Tucker W (2-1)	38,407	
Tuesday	08/10/04 vs Arizona Diamondbacks	4-0	W 45-66 Hernandez W (9-10)	8,386	
Wednesday	08/11/04 vs Arizona Diamondbacks	7-3	W 46-66 Patterson W (2-2)	5,089	
Thursday	08/12/04 vs Arizona Diamondbacks	7-5	W 47-66 Ayala W (4-7)	14,639	
Friday	08/13/04 vs Houston Astros	6-5	W 48-66 Vargas W (5-4)	8,593	
Saturday	08/14/04 vs Houston Astros	8-3	W 49-66 Tucker W (3-1)	11,929	
Sunday	08/15/04 vs Houston Astros	4-5	L 49-67 Ayala L (4-8)	13,528	
Monday	08/16/04 at San Francisco Giants	5-8	L 49-68 Cordero L (3-3)	39,545	
Tuesday	08/17/04 at San Francisco Giants	4-5	L 49-69 Ayala L (4-9)	39,511	
Wednesday	08/18/04 at San Francisco Giants	6-2	W 50-69 Biddle W (4-6)	42,296	
Wednesday	08/18/04 at San Francisco Giants	4-14	L 50-70 Tucker L (3-2)	42,296	
Friday	08/20/04 at Colorado Rockies	4-3	W 51-70 Ayala W (5-9)	32,707	

Saturday	08/21/04 at Colorado Rockies	2-5	L 51-71 Hernandez L (9-11)	33,225	
Sunday	08/22/04 at Colorado Rockies	8-2	W 52-71 Patterson W (3-2)	26,833	
Monday	08/23/04 vs Los Angeles Dodgers	8-7	W 53-71 Cordero W (4-3)	8,639	
Tuesday	08/24/04 vs Los Angeles Dodgers	2-10	L 53-72 Biddle L (4-7)	8,109	
Wednesday	08/25/04 vs Los Angeles Dodgers	6-3	W 54-72 Horgan W (4-1)	7,570	
Thursday	08/26/04 vs Los Angeles Dodgers	3-10	L 54-73 Hernandez L (9-12)	18,520	
Friday	08/27/04 vs San Diego Padres	10-3	W 55-73 Downs W (2-4)	8,165	
Sunday	08/28/04 vs San Diego Padres	12-5	L 55-74 Patterson L (3-3)	15,450	
Sunday	08/29/04 vs San Diego Padres	3-11	L 55-75 Kim L (3-5)	12,181	
Monday	08/30/04 vs Chicago Cubs	2-5	L 55-76 Biddle L (4-8)	8,122	
Tuesday	08/31/04 vs Chicago Cubs	8-0	W 56-76 Hernandez W (10-12)	7,162	
Wednesday	09/01/04 vs Chicago Cubs	1-2	L 56-77 Vargas L (5-5)	5,837	
Friday	09/03/04 vs Atlanta Braves	1-7	L 56-78 Downs L (2-5)	8,617	
Saturday	09/04/04 vs Atlanta Braves	0-9	L 56-79 Patterson L (3-4)	9,772	
Sunday	09/05/04 vs Atlanta Braves	4-3	W 57-79 Tucker W (4-2)	10,015	
Monday	09/06/04 at Chicago Cubs	1-9	L 57-80 Armas, Jr. L (2-4)	38,807	
Tuesday	09/07/04 at Chicago Cubs	7-6	W 58-80 Cordero W (5-3)	38,321	
Wednesday	09/08/04 at Chicago Cubs	6-0	W 59-80 Downs W (3-5)	39,379	
Friday	09/10/04 at Atlanta Braves	3-4	L 59-81 Patterson L (3-5)	22,086	
Saturday	09/11/04 at Atlanta Braves	1-8	L 59-82 Hernandez L (10-13)	28,860	
Sunday	09/12/04 at Atlanta Braves	8-9	L 59-83 Ayala L (5-10)	25,865	
Monday	09/13/04 at Florida Marlins	3-6	L 59-84 Majewski L (0-1)	4,003	CHICAGO AL
Tuesday	09/14/04 at Florida Marlins	6-8	L 59-85 Ayala L (5-11)	5,457	CHICAGO AL
Wednesday	09/15/04 at Florida Marlins	6-2	W 60-85 Patterson W (4-5)	12,608	
Wednesday	09/15/04 at Florida Marlins	10-4	W 61-85 Rauch W (2-0)	12,608	
Thursday	09/16/04 at Florida Marlins	3-4	L 61-86 Hernandez L (10-14)	17,219	
Friday	09/17/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	12-8	W 62-86 Ayala W (6-11)	35,498	
Saturday	09/18/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	6-5	W 63-86 Cordero W (6-3)	38,650	
Sunday	09/19/04 at Philadelphia Phillies	2-7	L 63-87 Downs L (3-6)	42,603	
Tuesday	09/21/04 vs New York Mets	6-1	W 64-87 Hernandez W (11-14)	3,839	
Wednesday	09/22/04 vs New York Mets	2-3	L 64-88 Ayala L (6-12)	3,664	
Thursday	09/23/04 vs New York Mets	2-4	L 64-89 Ohka L (3-6)	11,142	
Friday	09/24/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	8-1	W 65-89 Kim W (4-5)	5,481	
Saturday	09/25/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	3-4	L 65-90 Eischen L (0-1)	8,491	
Sunday	09/26/04 vs Philadelphia Phillies	1-2	L 65-91 Hernandez L (11-15)	12,382	
Monday	09/27/04 vs Florida Marlins	1-4	L 65-92 Patterson L (4-6)	3,923	
Tuesday	09/28/04 vs Florida Marlins	2-5	L 65-93 Ohka L (3-7)	5,416	
Wednesday	09/29/04 vs Florida Marlins	1-9	L 65-94 Kim L (4-6)	31,395	
Friday	10/01/04 at New York Mets	4-2	W 66-94 Rauch W (3-0)	29,273	
Saturday	10/02/04 at New York Mets	6-3	W 67-94 Cordero W (7-3)	30,147	
Sunday	10/03/04 at New York Mets	1-8	L 67-95 Patterson L (4-7)	33,589	

Final in Montreal



On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1994 the magical Expos defeated the Atlanta Braves to take over the top spot in the NL East where they remained for the next six weeks before the infamous player strike and the loss of the season. The best record in baseball belonged to Montreal. Ken Hill led the pitching staff in the strike shortened 1994 season with 16 wins. Pedro Martinez had 11 wins. Jeff Fassero was 8-6, John Wetteland had 25 saves. Outfielder Moises Alou batted .339 with 22 homers. Walker batted 322 with 19 homers. Marquis Grissom hit .288 and stole 38 bases. Shortstop Will Cordero hit 294 and homered 15 times.

### THE FIRE SALE

When the Expos returned to the field in 1995, Grissom and Walker and Wetteland were gone. The best team in baseball was gone. There was no chance at redemption for the lost 1994 campaign. The fans showed their disillusionment with GM Kevin Malone and the Expos. There was a dramatic drop in attendance. The 1,309,618 attendance figure was the lowest in a decade. The Expos finished last. Pedro Martinez provided the lone bright spot of the season by tossing 9 innings of perfect baseball at San Diego on June 3. The Expos took a 1-0 lead in the top of the 10th. But after Martinez allowed a lead off double in the bottom half, Mel Rojas was brought in to finish the win. In 1995 manager Alou allowed Greg Harris to pitch an inning ambidextrously. GM Malone resigned at the end of the season and was replaced by Jim Beattie.

An amazing resurrection occurred in 1996. The Atlanta Braves, predictably, finished first in the National League East. But with key contributions from rookies from the farm system and players acquired in trades, the Expos battled for the NL wild card until the final week of the season. They fell 2 games short with a solid 88-74

record. Attendance rebounded 25 percent, to 1,616,709. That was the highest mark during the remainder of the Expos tenure in Montreal. However, even more stars were let go following the season.

In 1997 the team fell back again, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in spite of a dominant season from Pedro Martinez who posted a 1.90 ERA and won the first and only Cy Young Award in Expos history. Pedro was dealt away following the season. The Expos had growing financial woes. Owner Claude Brochu told reporters that if the Expos were to remain in Montreal they were going to need a new ballpark.

And a new pitcher.

In 1998 the whispers became louder and talk of the team leaving Montreal became more prevalent and open. Claude Brochu wanted to sell. The Expos played most of the season outdoors as a new roof was placed on Olympic Stadium. The stadium had earned the nickname the "Big Owe," since the building and repairs had pushed the cost to a billion dollars. Montreal finished 4<sup>th</sup> again with a 67-95 record.

### 1999 SPRING TRAINING WITH EXHIBITION GAMES AT RFK STADIUM IN WASHINGTON SPUR ACTIVITY IN MONTREAL

A harbinger of things to come, the Expos played their final two spring training games of 1999 against the St. Louis Cardinals at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington. They were designated the "home" team for both games. With Washington openly courting



the Expos, this fact did not go unnoticed in Canada. The Canadian National government reportedly was willing to turn over the proposed downtown stadium site for one dollar. The Province of Quebec showed a surprising and unexpected interest in the club's future, agreeing to an 8-million-a-year involvement by Tourism Quebec, which meant a total contribution of 160 millions for 20 years towards the costs of the ballpark. Provincial authorities estimated that the Expos generated 15 million a year in Tourism. On the eve of a meeting between Brochu and Prime Minister Lucien Bouchard, the Quebec Minister of Finances, Bernard Landry, went on the air on CKAC radio station, saying that the new stadium for the Expos was a done deal. It was news Brochu wanted to hear. "Claude Brochu was in 7th heaven," said broadcaster. Jacques Doucet, for 33 years the French language radio broadcaster for the Expos. "But the very next morning, during the meeting, Mr. Bouchard disavowed his Finance Minister, stating that he would not close down hospital beds in order to put money in millionaires' pockets! What happened over night is still a mystery."

Possibly the last ray of hope had faded quickly.

But Brochu's negotiations with the government fell through, and he sold his interest in the team. He would later write a book titled, "My turn at bat: the sad saga of the Expos," in which he blamed Bouchard for the sale of the baseball team. He said the 1994 strike cost the Expos 20 million dollars, leading to the post season "fire sale" of players.

But his attempt to raise \$100 million in the sale of seat-license sales fell short. By June only 35 million had been raised.

In December, Jeffrey Loria, who had fallen short in a bid to purchase the Baltimore Orioles in 1994, bought 24 percent of the Expos, becoming the new managing partner. He hired his stepson, David Samson, who was involved in management with the Triple-A Oklahoma City 89ers, when Loria owned that AAA team. During

the 2000 season, Loria modified the announced a new financing plan for the proposed ballpark, based on a mix of hotel taxes, tax-exempt bonds, and other tax subsidies.

He wanted more public funding. However, Bouchard said that he couldn't in good conscience allow more public funding for a new stadium. Olympic Stadium still hadn't been paid for. And the province had other pressing needs. He was confident he had public backing for his refusal to get involved financially in the ballpark. Loria himself voided an 100 million deal with Labatt Brewery that included naming rights and beer sales. Would the new park have saved the Expos? Probably. But the odds against it being built were now very large.

## LABATT PARK

Labatt Park was designed by the AXOR Group of Montreal. An open-air stadium with a capacity of 36,287, it was to be built on the former Grand Trunk Railway Bonaventure Station site bordered by Rue St. Jacques, Rue de la Montagne, Rue Notre Dame and Rue Peel. The decidedly non-retro ballpark would have featured an exterior glass wall and a postmodern design. Labatt signed on as the naming sponsor. But the park was never built. A model of the park at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame was destroyed by vandals on in, 2005.

## ON THE FIELD IN 1999

On the field in 1999, Vladimir Guerrero became the first Expos' player to hit 40 home runs in a season. But still the Expos finished 4<sup>th</sup> and attendance fell to just 772,737.



## THE PEARSON CUP

In 1977, Toronto received its own MLB franchise, the Blue Jays. Starting In 1978, an annual exhibition game between the Expos and the Blue Jays, called the Pearson Cup (after Prime Minister Lester Bowles Pearson), was played. Canada's "baseball cup" game was a fundraiser for amateur baseball in Canada. Each team won three times. There were two ties. The game was discontinued in 1986. But the rivalry was revived as part of interleague play in 1997. The Expos won the first series, 2 games to one. Overall Toronto won 24 regular season games to 19 for the Expos. These series, though it provided a small boost in attendance for each club, failed to become a serious rivalry.

## 2000-2004 THE GOODBYE YEARS

In 2000, Montreal signed Free Agent Graeme Lloyd, and traded for high priced pitcher Hidecki Irabu. However, neither contributed much and the Expos finished 4<sup>th</sup>. But Loria pulled the Expos off TV and English speaking radio. Too bad. Because baseball on the radio is an important part of the baseball experience.

### 2001

Despite an opening day sell out, attendance in the 2001 season dropped to fewer than 10,000 per game, imperiling the continued existence of the franchise. Manager Alou, was fired and replaced by Jeff Torborg a close friend of Loria, as the Expos would go on to finish in last place with a 64-98 record.

## SO LONG JEFFREY

Before the 2002 baseball season, MLB was considering contracting 2 teams, The Montreal Expos and the Minnesota Twins. There was a 28-2 vote favoring the contraction. Montreal and Minnesota, the two prime candidates for contraction, cast dissenting votes. Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura sued Major League Baseball, forcing them to honor the last year of the lease at the Metrodome. In the meantime talk began anew that the Expos could move to Washington DC, if a deal on contraction could not be reached. The Expos had a stay of execution. But there were no viable local offers. Loria, who did try to strengthen the team via trades and doubling the player payroll, wanted to sell. "We enjoyed the people of Canada," he said. "Unfortunately the market just didn't seem to be there." \*

## THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ARRIVE

MLB agreed to buy and operate the Expos. Loria, in turn, bought the Florida Marlins. Nearly the entire Expos staff, including manager Torborg, moved with him to South Florida. Commissioner Bud Selig appointed Omar Minaya as General Manager, Frank Robinson as the Field Manager, and Tony Tavares as Club President. With very little incentive they did a competent, professional job during the 2002 season. Tavares personally called season ticket holders. On the field, Robinson and Minaya led the expos to a second place finish.



## 2002 LE FAUX PRINTEMPS (THE FALSE SPRING)

Before the home opener of the 2002 season, the Marlins manager, Jeff Torborg, and former Expos Manager was booed.

But inspired by the large 2002 opening day crowd, the Expos rallied with three in the ninth for a 7-6 win over the Marlins. There were huge ovations for the former Expos heroes Andres Galarraga and Henry Rodriguez, who rejoined the team for the 2002 season. Fans tossed Oh Henry chocolate bars from the stands, as they had during Rodriguez' previous tour with the Expos from 195 to 1997. They also cheered Quebec native Claude Raymond, a former Expos player and broadcaster, now a coach, and former Expo Cliff Floyd of the Marlins too.

However, the loudest cheers of the game came when Tim Lincecum, now with the Marlins, took the field, returning to the city where he began his baseball life. He was drafted by the Expos in the 5th round of the 1977 amateur draft

"I feel for the fans more than anything," said Lincecum. "I think the fans just got fed up with having good teams and then losing all their good players. Montreal fans were so used to winning, with the Canadiens there. Then there was this whole series of things that just kind of turned the fans away." \*

There were raucous cheers in the in the sixth inning too. Fans took passed around a yellow sign that said, "LORIA SUCKS." The last fan to touch the sign, walked it onto the roof of the Marlins' dugout, held it aloft and then threw it into the Florida dugout.

The Team's MLB caretaker owners celebrated the history of the Expos as a marketing ploy. On several occasions the team wore 1969 vintage replica uniforms. They gave away bobbleheads of former Expos' starts Rusty Staub, Steve Rogers, Tim Lincecum Sr., Andre Dawson and Gary Carter, plus current right fielder Vladimir Guerrero. "It ain't over, 'till it's over," Yogi Berra said once. But it was an implied "Going out of Business" marketing campaign. And it was effective. Montreal attendance jumped 33 percent to 812,537, the largest rise in MLB.

## ADDING COLON—BUT DRAINING THE TALENT POOL

In late June the surprising Expos, at 41-36, were very much in the hunt for the NL wild card. And in just as big a surprise they traded first baseman Lee Stevens and top prospect Brandon Phillips, a shortstop, to the Cleveland Indians along with left-hander Cliff Lee and outfielder Grady Sizemore for Indian's ace right-hander Bartolo Colon and minor league pitcher Tim Lincecum. Colon was 10-4 with a 2.55 ERA in 16 starts with the Indians, led the AL in innings and complete games, and was on the leader board in wins, ERA, strikeouts and shutouts.

"I hope it sends a message to our fans and players that we are trying to be competitive and make the playoffs," GM Minaya said. \*

Colon went 10-4 with a 3.31 ERA for Montreal. But the Expos fell well out of wild card contention and ultimately could not afford Colon. So in January, 2003, rather than lose him to free agency, Minaya traded the right hander to the Chicago White Sox in a three-team deal. The Yankees sent pitcher Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez and cash to Chicago for reliever Antonio Osuna and



minor league pitcher Delvis Lantigua. Then the White Sox then sent Hernandez, right-handed pitcher Rocky Biddle, outfielder Jeff Liefer and cash to Montreal.

In 2006 Brandon Phillips was the starting second baseman for the Cincinnati Reds and Grady Sizemore was the starting Centerfield for the Cleveland Indians. Lee was in the Indians starting pitching rotation. All were productive.

Also in 2002, the Expos traded two minor leaguers—outfielder Jason Bay, the 2004 NL rookie of the year, and right-hander Jim Serrano—to the New York Mets for infielder Lou Collier. Collier had 11 at-bats for the Expos.

Under severe budget restraints, the minor league and scouting systems, once the pride of the Expos organization, and the envy of many other baseball organizations, suffered badly. The Expos virtually lost all presence in Latin America, a prime recruiting ground.

## A LAWSUIT

On July 15, 2002, lawyers for 14 prominent Canadian companies, including Esarbee Investments Ltd, owned by Stephen R. Bronfman, the son of the Expos' original owner, filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Miami against Commissioner Bud Selig, Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, and Jeffrey Loria, owner of the Florida Marlins and former managing partner of the Expos. Those companies, who once owned 76 percent of the Expos, included BCE (Bell Canada), BMO Nesbitt Burns, Cascades, Fairmont Hotel & Resorts and Loblaw's Inc., which operates major Canadian grocery chains. They sought an injunction preventing Major League Baseball from moving the Expos to another city or eliminating the team through its contraction plan.

Selig had planned to eliminate the Expos and the Minnesota Twins before the 2002 season to help ease baseball's economic problems. The plaintiffs contended that Selig, Loria, and others conspired to eliminate baseball in Montreal in violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act of 1970, or RICO.

The suit further alleged that Loria lied to the minority owners about his intentions for the team, gaining 94 percent of the team through a series of cash calls that the companies were unable or unwilling to meet. Loria and Samson represented the calls to be for legitimate business purposes. But they were actually made for the purpose of diluting the ownership interests of the companies so that Loria could take control of the Expos. A partnership short of capital can call on its partners for cash. If they do not come up with it, their stake in the partnership is reduced and the stake of those who do come up with the cash is increased. As a result of his fraudulent conduct and that of the other defendants, the suit alleged, Mr. Loria was able to achieve near total ownership of the Expos without paying any compensation to plaintiffs. As a result these 14 businesses were left with a small minority interest in the Marlins and the Expos were given a death sentence in Montreal.

The plaintiffs claimed that in 1999 they were on the verge of accomplishing a well-developed plan to build a new ballpark in downtown Montreal and revitalize the Expos. As part of that plan, they agreed that a new managing general partner would be appointed who would build the new ballpark. They pledged 75 million in new capital from U.S. investors, together with a similar contribution from Canadian investors. In exchange, the existing owners agreed to have their ownership interests diluted, a sacrifice



they were told was necessary to keep the team in Montreal. When Loria (a New York City art dealer) became the managing general partner, he indicated that he intended to keep the Expos in Montreal. He was supportive of the plan to build a new downtown ballpark. Commissioner Selig, himself, indicated support for a new downtown stadium.

It was also alleged that Mr. Loria took steps to destroy the economic viability of the Expos in Montreal by removing the team from local TV and letting an option on the land for the new ballpark expire. It further claimed that Mr. Loria swapped the Expos for the Florida Marlins so that he could become an owner of an MLB team in the U.S. Mr. Selig could then eliminate the Expos as part of a 'contraction' strategy in his labor negotiations with the MLB players union.

The suit sought \$100 million in punitive damages and unspecified compensatory damages for violation of the RICO act. Damage awards under RICO are tripled.

The defendants responded with an avalanche of motions, seeking, among other things, to dismiss the case, change the venue of the suit to New York, and to stay the case pending the outcome of the arbitration.

In November 2002, Judge Ursula Ungaro-Benages denied the defendants' venue motion, stayed the Florida action until the arbitration proceedings concluded, and effectively barred the relocation of the expos while that stay was in place.

## 2003: A SPLIT SEASON—MONTREAL AND PUERTO RICO

The Expos began the 2003 season at Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, PR on April 12. The tiny ballpark with artificial turf, named after the first Puerto Rican-born player to reach the Major Leagues, was expanded to a seating capacity of about 20,000 for the Expos.

Prices range from \$85 for a box seat to \$10 for bleacher seats. The crowd of 17,906 was larger than all but eight crowds at Olympic Stadium in 2002. Legendary Puerto Rican player Orlando Cepeda threw out the first pitch. The Expos beat the New York Mets, 10-0 behind 8 scoreless innings by Tomo Okha. Jose Vidro had three hits and three RBI's. Leftfielder Brad Wilkerson hit a grand slam in a decisive 7 run bottom of the third.

## ANOTHER POSSIBLE FINAL OPENING DAY IN MONTREAL

On Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Expos finally played their first "home" game of the 2003 season in Montreal. Before a respectable crowd of 36,879 fans, this time Ohka pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings and Jose Vidro went 3-for-4 with two runs scored, leading the Montreal Expos to a 4-0 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks. Wil Cordero hit his first homer of the season to deep left in the second and Jose Vidro hit his fourth blast of the season to left-center in the third.

Two of the three players acquired in the deal for Colon contributed nothing. Liefer was cut very early on in the season and Hernandez was on the disabled list for the entire season. Biddle, however, was an effective closer for much of the season, converting 34-of-41 save opportunities.

There were more troubles as the season unfolded. Tony Armas, number 2 in the Expos rotation, went on the disabled list in April and Guerrero, a superstar in his contract year, spent weeks on the disabled list.

## BATTLING FOR THE WILD CARD

Incredibly, though, Montreal was in a virtual tie for the wild card at the end of August. Shortstop Orlando Cabrera had a career year hitting .297 with 17 home runs and 80 RBIs. He had 24 stolen bases.

Javier Vazquez cemented his position as one of the best young pitchers in the game, finishing 13-12 with a 3.24 ERA and 241 strikeouts. Obtained from the Giants for virtually nothing in the off season, Livan Hernandez won 15 and lost ten, striking out 178 and finishing with a 3.20 ERA and eight complete games.

Luis Ayala, in relief, went 10-3 with five saves and a 2.92 ERA in 65 games.

## NO HELP FOR THE EXPOS FROM MLB

In September MLB inexplicably prohibited the Expos from calling up players from the minors when the roster was expanded to forty for all teams. While there is no way to establish cause and effect, there was a late season collapse. The club slipped to fourth place, winning 83 games, losing 79. That decision had consequences leading into the departure of the few remaining marquee players.

"MLB should not have refused the funds needed for September recalls in 2003 with the Expos in the Wild Card race," said Jacques

Doucet. "Such an action, to me, was a direct conflict of interest. I believe that MLB had or still has an emergency fund that was created to help clubs in financial difficulty," said Jacques Doucet. "And I also believe that it was used to

help the Colorado Rockies and the Arizona Diamondbacks at some point. I think that MLB could have done the same for Montreal and Toronto when the Canadian dollar came down to about 0.60 US."

As a collective, MLB owned the Expos. But the team was at best a step child. Collectively, MLB may even have taken pride in the competitive accomplishments of the 2003 team. But individually, the owners had no interest in helping the Expos beat their own clubs, their first born; particularly with the playoffs at stake. But they did have the resources to do so.

## MLB'S CENTRAL FUND

Baseball has a little talked about central fund. This war chest was originally set up in the late 1980s and 1990s to help owners do battle with the union during strikes or lock outs. This revenue is collected by the league but not paid out to its 30 teams. It is built from national revenue, such as television contracts and merchandising rights fees. But it's broader purpose is to help struggling franchises.

It was reported on the cnn/money website in Dec, 2001 that, at that time, there was about \$53.3 in the central fund, or more than the 2003 Expos payroll.



## ANOTHER LAST GOODBYE?

Montreal finished its 2003 home schedule on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, losing to the Atlanta Braves, 14-4 before 17,526. They won twelve of their final 15 games at Olympic Stadium. Expos outfielder Vladimir Guerrero, a free agent at the end of the season, again left the game to a standing ovation.

Resigned Expos fans expected the off season loss of Guerrero to the Angels via free agency and the trade of Javier Vazquez to the New York Yankees for Nick Johnson and Randy Choate.



### *The 2004 Montreal Expos*

**4th Row:** Ron Calloway, Juan Rivera, Luis Ayala (56), Tomo Okha (34), Brian Schneider (23), Sun-Woo Kim (31), Chad Cordero (32), Jeremy Fikac (40), Kazuhiko Tomooka.

**3rd Row:** Pat Ross, Matt Cepicky (29), Andy Fox (12), Terrmel Sledge (48), Rocky Biddle (60), Zach Day (54), Claudio Vargas (33), T.J. Tucker (52), Valentino Pascucci, Tim Abraham.

**2nd Row:** Mike Wallace, Peter Bergeron (11), Endy Chavez (19), Einar Diaz (9), Brad Wilkerson (6), Jose Vidro (3), Orlando Cabrera (18), Tony Batista (7), Jamey Carroll (5), Chad Bentz (57), Ron McClain.

**1st Row:** Bob Natal, Randy St. Claire, Tom McCraw, Frank Robinson, Eddie Rodriguez, Jerry Morales, Manny Acta, Claude Raymond.

*Photo by Getty Images*

## 2004 THE FINAL SEASON

Their final April was a cruel one for the Expos. There was no young star ready to replace the versatile Guerrero. There was no offense. Valiant efforts by the pitching staff were wasted.

## THE LARGEST ROAD CROWD

It began on the road against the World Champion Marlins. On Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, in Miami, Florida rookie Hee Seop Choi homered and drove in three runs on opening day, powering the Marlins to a 4-3 win. The crowd of 55,315 was the largest ever to see a regular-season game at Joe Robbie Stadium, and the largest crowd to see the 2004 Expos anywhere. With two outs in the ninth, Vidro homered and Carl Everett doubled. But Orlando Cabrera then ended the game with a foul out to Choi. 2002 World Series MVP Josh Beckett gave up four hits and struck out nine.

## FIRST WIN OF THE YEAR

On Wednesday night, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Carl Everett and Orlando Cabrera each homered off Brad Penny to lift the Expos to their first win of season, 3-2. Expos Left hander Chad Bentz, born with a deformed right hand, made his major league debut, pitching one scoreless inning of relief. It was the last time the Expos would ever be at .500.

## FLORIDA'S WILLIS SHUTS OUT THE EXPOS, GOES 3 FOR 3 AT BAT

On Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>, Florida pitcher Dontrelle Willis pitched five-hit ball into the eighth inning, went 3-for-3 and scored a run with a headfirst slide into home to help the Marlins beat the Expos, 3-0. Montreal's Tomo Ohka allowed three runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

## OPENING DAY IN PUERTO RICO

Back at Hiram Bithorn Stadium for 22 more home games in 2004, the Expos drew 14,739 on Good Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This was about 5,000 short of a sellout for their "home" opener. The ballpark had been upgraded with new artificial turf, a new scoreboard, plus expanded seating. The eight-foot outfield wall had been moved back to coincide with the dimensions at Olympic Stadium—325 feet down the lines, and 404 to straightaway center field. With many fans chanting, "Let's go Mets!" New York won, 3-2. The loss dropped Montreal's record to 1 and 3.

Todd Zeile doubled home the game winner in 11<sup>th</sup>. The Expos had tied it in the eighth on a two-run double by Vidro. With the score tied in the bottom of the ninth, Montreal's Brian Schneider hit a line drive to deep left field that would have been a walk off homerun before the fences were moved back. But Shane Spencer caught it at the warning track. Montreal starter Zack Day allowed three hits and struck out seven.



## FIRST HOME WIN—SAN JUAN

The Expos got their first "home" win on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. John Patterson made his Montreal debut, allowing just two hits and shutting out the Mets over 7 innings. Peter Bergeron's two-out RBI single in the seventh gave the Expos a 1-0 win. Rocky Biddle worked the ninth to complete the shutout.

## LONGEST LOSING STREAK—EIGHT GAMES

On Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Mets outfielder Eric Valent's first major league home run backed Tom Glavine and led New York to a 4-1 win. Livan Hernandez allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings. The attendance of 10,623 was the second-lowest for the 25 games the Expos had played in San Juan over two seasons.

## THREE STRAIGHT SHUTOUTS

With the major's worst offense in the early season, the Expos took extra batting practice on Tuesday night, April 13<sup>th</sup>. It did not help. Florida swept the series, recording three straight shutouts, beginning with a 5-0 win. 20-year-old slugger Miguel Cabrera homered twice. Brad Penny allowed only two hits. Expos starter Claudio Vargas (1-1) took the loss.

## WILLIS AGAIN SHUTS OUT EXPOS, GOES 3 FOR 3

On Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Dontrelle Willis shut out the Expos and went 3 for 3 at the plate for the second time in a week. He hit his second career homer in the 5<sup>th</sup>, leading the Marlins to a 9-0 win. Miguel Cabrera homered for the fourth straight game. The game drew 13,180.

On Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, Carl Pavano and a pair of relievers combined to blank Montreal on three hits, 3-0. Montreal's scoreless string reached a club-record 33 innings. They had scored a total of 10 runs in 10 games. Zack Day pitched seven innings and allowed just three runs and just four hits.

After going 1-5 in San Juan, the Expos played in the first night game ever at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. On Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Tony Batista homered in the second to end the Expos' scoreless drought at 34 innings. That gave the Expos their first lead in a week. Batista added a double. But Jim Thome went 4-for-4 leading Philadelphia to a 4-2 win. Eric Milton struck out six and walked none, posting his first win with the Phillies. Livan Hernandez (0-2) pitched well, giving up three runs and eight hits in six innings. Batista had entered the game with just 2 hits in 25 at bats.

The Phillies won again on Saturday, 6-3. David Bell, Pat Burrell, Placido Polanco, and Bobby Abreu all homered. Kevin Millwood won his fifth straight decision against Montreal.

The Expos had the worst batting average (.187), on-base percentage (.244) and slugging percentage (.263) in the major leagues. Left fielder Termel Sledge went 0-for-4 and was 0-for-18.

for the season. Montreal tied it on Brad Wilkerson's RBI single in the second and Brian Schneider's two-run homer in the fourth. Robinson moved 2B Jose Vidro to the cleanup spot to shake up his team's offense. But Vidro was 0-for-4.

On Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Doug Glanville homered off Biddle leading off the ninth inning to lift the Phillies to a three game sweep, 5-4. But Montreal scored more than three runs for the first time in 2004. The Expos had been the first team since the 1997 Phillies to fail to score more than three runs in each of their first 11 games. In the first inning, Orlando Cabrera hit a two-run homer off Randy Wolf and Brad Wilkerson had a solo shot. The Expos had a 3-0 lead. In the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brian Schneider tripled in the 7<sup>th</sup> and scored on Bergeron's single, tying the game at 4.

And on Monday night, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Shea Stadium in New York, Karim Garcia and Ty Wigginton homered off Tomo Ohka (0-3) to send the Expos to their eighth straight defeat, 4-1. It was Montreal's worst skid since 2000. Montreal got 10 hits, but all were singles.

## MAKING DO WITH LESS

On Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, Vidro led off the eighth inning with his second home run of the season and the Expos edged the New York Mets 2-1. It was the Expos first extra-base hit in 18 innings. Zach Day (1-1) limited the Mets to four hits in seven innings.

On Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Expos defeated the New York Mets 2-1 again.

Montreal trailed 1-0 in the fifth when Wilkerson doubled with one out and Orlando Cabrera followed with a single. But the Mets Gold Glove centerfielder Mike Cameron let the ball get under his glove,

allowing Wilkerson to score and Cabrera to reach third. Vidro followed with a sacrifice fly, giving the Expos the lead. It was just the fifth multi-run inning of the season for Montreal. Livan Hernandez pitched into the eighth inning and outfielders Brad Wilkerson and Juan Rivera cut down Met runners trying to score.

On Thursday night, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Mets salvaged a split of the 4 game series. Mike Piazza doubled twice and drove in a run, leading New York to a 3-2 triumph. Cameron's RBI double in the bottom of the seventh was the game winner. In the ninth, Mets' reliever Braden Looper retired pinch-hitter Jamey Carroll with runners on the corners for his fourth save. Patterson allowed just one run and three hits in six innings.

The Expos became the first team not to score more than four runs in any of its first 16 games since the 1968 Chicago White Sox. Montreal's 26 runs scored through 16 games tied the 1972 Milwaukee Brewers for the third-fewest in major league history. Only the 1907 Brooklyn Superbas (15) and the 1909 Washington Senators (25) scored fewer.

## THE LAST OPENING DAY IN MONTREAL

By the time the Expos opened in Montreal on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, their record stood at just 4-12. New "Field Turf" gave Olympic Stadium a new look. The game coincided with the opener of the Montreal Canadiens' second-round NHL playoff series at Tampa Bay and the crowd of 30,112 was smallest for a home opener in Montreal since 1985. The Phillies overcame the Expos, 8-6, scoring 4 runs in the top of the first. But Montreal rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the home sixth to tie the game. Wilkerson hit a run-scoring double



and scored on a single by rookie Termel Sledge, who had been 1-for-35. Then Endy Chavez, recalled from Triple-A Edmonton a day earlier, hit an infield single to score Sledge and Brian Schneider. Chavez came home when second baseman Placido Polanco threw the ball in the dirt past Thome at first. Montreal had a season-high 12 hits. The game was briefly delayed when a shirtless man jumped onto the field in the fourth. The fan ran straight across the field, well in front of each of the Phillies' three outfielders, into the right-field corner. Security guards escorted him from the field.

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Phillies' Randy Wolf homered, hit an RBI double and pitched a four-hitter, shutting out the Expos, 7-0. Montreal, off to a franchise-worst start at 4-14, was shut out for the fifth time and had scored two runs or fewer in 13 games. The game drew just 6,899 despite a kids' opening day promotion. Tomo Ohka (0-4) allowed five runs and 13 hits in six innings.

### FIRST HOME WIN AND BRAD WILKERSON BOBBLEHEAD

On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Expos got their first win at Olympic Stadium, defeating Philadelphia, 2-0. Zach Day and Rocky Biddle combined on Montreal's second shutout, and Matt Cepicky hit a two-run double. The Expos four previous wins were all by one run. Day (2-1) scattered nine hits through eight innings. Biddle finished with a perfect ninth for his fifth save in five opportunities. The game drew only 8,267 despite a Brad Wilkerson bobble head promotion.

Orlando Cabrera singled with one out in the fifth, extending his hitting streak to 10 games. The Expos optioned right-hander Jeremy Fikac and first baseman Luis Lopez to Triple-A Edmonton after the game.

On Monday night, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Miguel Ojeda hit a bloop RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Padres a 3-2 win. The Expos rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie the game in the sixth. Vidro hit an RBI double off the wall in right and was thrown out trying to stretch it into a triple. Then Wilkerson doubled and scored on Tony Batista's single down the right-field line. Hernandez allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out six. Right fielder Valentino Pascucci, making his major league debut, walked in his first plate appearance.

On Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Petco Park was blanketed in a heavy fog by the sixth inning. Ismael Valdez limited Montreal to four hits in eight innings to lead the San Diego Padres to a 3-0 victory. Montreal came in batting just .205 with 36 runs scored, the worst in the major leagues. It was the sixth time the Expos had been shut out in 21 games. Montreal starter John Patterson left in the sixth inning with a torn right groin muscle.

On Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Expos pounded out a season high 13 hits. Jamey Carroll had four of them, including a two-run double. Utility infielder Andy Fox hit a solo homer in the first. But the team was frustrated again as Rookie Khalil Greene hit an RBI triple to cap a three-run eighth inning that carried the Padres to a 5-4 win. Shortstop Cabrera's streak of 151 straight starts ended, but he replaced Fox starting the bottom of the seventh. It was the 190th straight game in which he had played. The Expos recalled right-hander T.J. Tucker from Triple-A Edmonton to replace the injured Patterson.

On Thursday night, April 29<sup>th</sup>, David Wells got his first win for the Padres, allowing just two hits in seven innings to lead San Diego to



a 2-1 win. Tomo Ohka pitched into the seventh, but became the first pitcher in the majors to lose five games in 2004. The Expos had been shut out in three of Ohka's four previous starts. Pascucci got his first big league RBI with a sacrifice fly.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Expos closed out the month with a 4-13 record, as they were routed, 13-4, on Friday, by the Dodgers in Los Angeles. Paul Lo Duca and Shawn Green homered for the Dodgers. The Expos scored two runs in the fourth to tie it 2-all. In that inning Pascucci singled off the glove of third baseman Adrian Beltre for his first major league hit.

## MAY

On Saturday night, May 1<sup>st</sup>, in LA Adrian Beltre hit a pair of solo homers off Livan Hernandez and singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth, giving the Dodgers a 5-4 victory.

It was the 17<sup>th</sup> loss in 20 games for Montreal. Hernandez was charged with four runs in seven innings. Tony Batista put Montreal ahead, 3-2, leading off the fourth with his second homer.

The Expos' were the only team in the majors without a victory credited to a reliever through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Schneider threw out Cesar Izturis attempting to steal in the first inning, making it 21 of 45 potential base stealers he had thrown out. He led the major leagues with a percentage of 46.7.

On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cabrera hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth, Juan Rivera had a pinch-hit, two-run shot in the eighth and Brad Wilkerson went deep in the ninth, giving the Expos a 6-4 victory over Dodgers and ending a 6 game losing streak. Korean Sun-woo Kim earned his first win in the majors since July 2, 2002, allowing two runs and four hits over five innings. Kim entered the

game with a streak of 11 2-3 scoreless innings in relief. The Expos beat Hideo Nomo, who had beaten the Expos six straight times. It was a sweltering 98 degrees in LA.

Only 4,001 fans welcomed the team in its return to Montreal on Tuesday night, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Termel Sledge hit his first career homer and Endy Chavez had a three-run shot as Montreal broke out of a season-long slump with a 10-4 victory over the Colorado Rockies. Vidro also connected for the Expos, who won consecutive games for just the second time in 2004. It was the second straight three homer game for the Expos. They still had a major league-low 55 homeruns. Sledge had his first career three-hit game as Montreal got a season-high 14 hits. The Expos matched their season highs with four runs and five hits in the fifth inning.

## SMALLEST HOME CROWD

On Wednesday night, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Joe Kennedy allowed one hit over six scoreless innings and Mark Sweeney hit a two-run double to lead Colorado over Montreal, 2-0. It was the seventh time the Expos were shut out. The smallest crowd of the year, 3,609, gathered. Day scattered five hits while holding the Rockies scoreless until the seventh.

On Thursday night, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Hernandez pitched Montreal's first complete game of the season, escaping a late jam to earn a 3-1 victory over the Rockies. It completed the Expos first series win of the season. Juan Rivera hit a two-run double. Hernandez, who led the National League with eight complete games in 2003, got 15 straight outs after Luis Gonzalez's leadoff single in the first. It was his 32<sup>nd</sup> career complete game. Tomo Ohka and Luis Ayala were tied for the league lead in losses.



## TAKING A SERIES FROM THE CARDINALS

Making a rare early lead stand up on Friday night, May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Expos beat visiting St. Louis, 4-2, in the opener of a weekend series. Wilkerson and Sledge hit two-run homers in the first inning Sun-woo Kim (2-0) allowed one run and seven hits over six innings in his second start. Rocky Biddle pitched the ninth for his sixth save in as many chances. Montreal has won four of five.

And the Expos won again on Saturday night, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2-0, for their third straight win

Tomo Ohka and Rocky Biddle combined on a three-hitter, and Jose Vidro homered and drove in two runs. Ohka (1-5) received just one run of support, that unearned, while losing his first five starts. It was Montreal's third shutout of the season. Sledge went 2-for-3 to extend his hitting streak to 10 games. He hit .533 (16-for-30) during the streak, and raised his average to .266 after starting the season in a 1-for-35 slump. Despite winning five of six, and taking the series from the powerful Cardinals, Montreal still had a 10-21 mark.

## WARREN CROMARTIE BOBBLEHEADS

On Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Former Expos OF Warren Cromartie was given a warm ovation from the crowd of 12,301. The Expos gave away 5,000 Cromartie bobble head dolls. But Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds homered, and Chris Carpenter pitched eight impressive innings, as the Cardinals salvaged the series finale, 5-2. Wilkerson homered for Montreal, which fell to 5-4 at Olympic Stadium and had its season-high three-game winning streak ended. Sledge went 0-

for-3 to end a 10-game hitting streak. Vidro had three of Montreal's five hits, including a run-scoring single. But after the game he voiced pessimism about the state of negotiations with the team on a long-term contract. "I think I deserve respect, and right now I think I'm not getting it," he said. "We are very close" in terms of money, "but somebody doesn't want to pay, and you guys are going to be very surprised when you find out how close." \*

On Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, in Milwaukee, the Brewers trailed 5-0 in the ninth inning. But Geoff Jenkins ended Livan Hernandez's shutout bid with a one-out homer and the Brewers rallied to tie. Then Wes Helms hit a three-run homer off T.J. Tucker in the 14<sup>th</sup> for an 8-5 victory. Biddle took the loss in relief. Sledge and Schneider homered for Montreal. Batista, in a 4-for-24 slump, was replaced in the starting lineup by Jamey Carroll. The crowd of 10,671 marked the third lowest road attendance of the year.

On Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at Miller Park, the Brewers' Lyle Overbay hit a two-run double in a four run sixth that beat Montreal, 4-3. Day was cruising through another efficient outing until the sixth. He helped his own cause with a solo homer and gave up just two hits through the first five innings. Robinson said he was sticking with Biddle as his closer despite the right handers 8.31 ERA. Umpire Paul Nauert filed a report with Major League Baseball after a bat was thrown in his direction by Sledge.

Milwaukee posted its third straight come from behind win on Thursday night, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7-4.

Pitcher Kim doubled down the right-field line in the second, driving in his first two runs in the majors for a 3-0 lead. Bill Hall's two-run homer tied it at 3 in the bottom of the third. In the 4<sup>th</sup>, Overbay hit a major league-leading 19<sup>th</sup> double to extend his career-best



hitting streak to 14 games. He scored the go-ahead run on Moeller's sacrifice fly in the fourth. The Brewers scored 3 more in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Losing leads in three straight games only magnified things for the Expos, who were 10-25.

## FOUR STRAIGHT AND FOUR STRAIGHT

On Friday night, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Orlando Cabrera's ninth-inning single beat the Diamondbacks. 4-3 Brian Schneider hit his fourth home run of the year for the Expos, who snapped a four-game losing streak, and began a four game winning streak. Cordero (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Biddle worked a hitless ninth for his eighth save in nine chances. Steve Finley hit his major league-leading 12th home run for the Diamondbacks. Starter Ohka retired 13 straight batters before Finley's homer in the sixth. Schneider tied it in the second with a two-out homer.

The Expos shut out Arizona at Bank One Ballpark again on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-0.

Vargas scattered six hits in seven-plus scoreless innings. Sledge had a single, an RBI triple and a solo home run for Montreal. Batista drove in three runs with two doubles, his first RBIs in 11 games. Sledge had 21-hits in hits 49 at bats after a 1-for-34 start to his career

Montreal completed their first series sweep on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, winning, 6-1. Hernandez pitched a six-hitter for his second complete game in 10 days. "I try to stay long in the game," said Hernandez, "My reputation is I can throw a lot of pitches." \* Schneider hit a three-run homer in the fourth. The Expos had now

won three of their past four series, but had no sweeps. They started 0-7-1 in eight series.

The start of the Expos second home stand in Puerto Rico season wasn't met with huge fanfare. Only 8,387 came to 18,000-seat Hiram Bithorn Stadium. On Tuesday night, May, 18<sup>th</sup>, the last-place Expos extended their winning streak to four games with a 3-2 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers. Day got his first win in more than three weeks, holding the Brewers to one run in six innings. It was the seventh time in eight starts this season that he allowed three earned runs or fewer. Wilkerson, Juan Rivera and Brian Schneider each hit an RBI singles

Outfielder Carl Everett, out for 30 games with a shoulder injury, was back in the lineup.

He went 1-for-3 and made a nice shoe top catch in left field with two on and two outs in the fifth.

After the game it was announced that Vidro had agreed to a long-term contract. Vidro said he wanted to be with Montreal despite the uncertainty surrounding the franchise.

On Wednesday night, May 19<sup>th</sup>, in San Juan, Bill Hall hit a go-ahead, three-run triple in the fourth inning to help the Brewers snap Montreal's four-game winning streak, 6-3. The game started after a 59-minute rain delay. The teams waited through a 43-minute rain delay in the middle of the fifth. Only a few hundred of the announced attendance of 8,157 stayed around for the finish. The game took 4 hours, 50 minutes to complete. Kim allowed only one hit through the first three innings. Endy Chavez went 4-for-5 for the Expos.

On Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Scott Podsednik hit the go-ahead home run off closer Biddle in the top of ninth inning to lift the Brewers to



a 3-2 victory. Orlando Cabrera struck out during a tense, 11 pitch at-bat with the go-ahead run on second in the eighth

On Friday night, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Bithorne Stadium, Hernandez took a 3-0 lead into the seventh. But San Francisco's Barry Bonds' seemingly harmless leadoff walk sparked a six-run rally that carried the Giants to a 6-5 win. Hernandez had worked into the seventh inning in all 10 starts.

## LARGEST CROWD OF THE YEAR IN SAN JUAN

Bonds threw out a runner at home on Saturday night, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bithorne Stadium. He was 0-3 and walked twice. But he drove in the go-ahead run in the 11<sup>th</sup> with a simple fielder's choice grounder to second. The Giants won 7-2. The crowd, 16,836, in Puerto Rico was very enthusiastic every time Bonds was at the plate. It was the largest crowd of the year in San Juan.

Sundays' game with the Giants was rained out. And the Expos returned to Montreal to face the Braves.

Atlanta's John Thomson shut out the Expos, 5-0, on Monday night, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Andruw Jones homered twice. J.D. Drew also connected for the Braves.

Zach Day allowed all three homers among seven hits in seven innings.

In the second inning, Everett doubled in his first plate appearance in Montreal. He was given a warm ovation from the sparse crowd.

Tomo Ohka pitched seven strong innings and ended the five-game losing streak with a 3-1 win over the Atlanta on Tuesday night, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Batista, Juan Rivera and Chavez all homered. Montreal, still an NL-worst 15-30, improved to 6-5 at Olympic Stadium. They were just 2-9 in San Juan. Cordero worked a hitless eighth, and Biddle got three outs for his 10th save in 11 opportunities.

Russ Ortiz threw a five-hitter for his first complete game of the season on Wednesday night, May 26<sup>th</sup>, leading the Braves to a 6-1 victory. Hernandez (3-4) allowed 10 hits and four runs in seven innings. He had gone at least seven innings in eight of 11 starts. Montreal took an early lead on Vidro's RBI single in the first, but Ortiz escaped without further damage when Everett grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Cabrera did not start but pinch hit, flying out in the eighth to extend his consecutive games streak to 214. Hernandez's shortest start of the season was his six-inning outing in a season-opening 4-3 loss in Florida on Apr. 6.

On Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, Ken Griffey hit his 493rd homer and Sean Casey went 4-for-5 as the Cincinnati Reds held on for a 7-6 win. Vidro had an RBI grounder and Batista homered in the first for Montreal, which saw its NL-worst record drop to 15-32. Wilkerson's leadoff homer in the sixth cut the lead to 6-3.

The Reds starter, Cory Lidle, contributed an RBI single in the seventh, making it 7-3.

The hit proved to be the difference as the Expos scored three in the bottom half to close to within one.

Cabrera and Everett led off the inning with consecutive doubles to draw the Expos to within 7-4. Everett advanced to third on Nick Johnson's grounder and scored on Brian Schneider's sacrifice fly, which brought Montreal to within two. Then pinch hitter Matt Cepicky homered.

Johnson was activated from the 15-day disabled list earlier in the day. He went 0-for-4 in his Montreal debut.

## FEWEST ERRORS IN THE NL

The visiting Reds won again on Saturday Night, May 29<sup>th</sup> at Olympic Stadium, 4-1.

Adam Dunn homered off Zach Day (3-6) in the seventh. Montreal did not make an error for the 32<sup>nd</sup> time in 48 games. Montreal had committed a major league-low 18 errors. Still, the Expos fell to a NL-worst 15-33.

"I don't see any fire, no intensity," manager Frank Robinson said. "Nobody's getting (upset). I'm not saying they're giving up but when they start to accept losing, it's not very good. You don't see light at the end of the tunnel." \*

The Expos pitchers walked a season-high eight batters. Chavez hit his third homer of the season with one out in the bottom half to tie it at 1. Day was 1-5 in his last six starts. Johnson singled in the fifth for his first NL hit, and doubled in the seventh.

## OKHA BATS 8TH

On Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Tomo Ohka became the first major league pitcher in more than five years to bat higher than ninth in the starting lineup. He batted eighth and went hitless in two at-bats, but he

worked 6 2/3 strong innings to beat the Reds, 6-2. Ohka (3-5) was 3-0 in his last five starts.

Wilkerson and Chavez homered. Nick Johnson drew three of the Expos' season-high 10 walks. Montreal left 10 runners on base through the first four innings. Cordero got six outs for his first save.

On Monday Night, at Turner Field in Atlanta, Nick Green's three run homer off Hernandez in the seventh inning highlighted a six-run rally in the Braves' 8-2 win over Montreal to close out the month. Hernandez did not allow a hit until J.D. Drew homered to lead off the fourth.

## JUNE

On Tuesday night, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Green opened a new month just like he closed the old one with another three run homer. This one tied the game at 6-6 in the bottom of the ninth. J.D. Drew quickly grabbed the spotlight, however, homering on the next pitch to give the Braves a 7-6 win.

The Braves were shut down by Tony Armas Jr. for 5 2/3 innings. Following his second consecutive blown save, Biddle (0-3) had a 6.88 ERA. Wilkerson's seventh homer gave Montreal a 4-2 lead in the seventh. The Expos added two runs in the eighth. Cabrera reached on an error. Nick Johnson, Juan Rivera and Brian Schneider followed with three straight hits. Vidro singled twice. He led Montreal with 11 multi-hit games.

On Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Einar Diaz, a backup catcher making only his 10<sup>th</sup> start, drove in his first three runs of the season. Montreal beat the Atlanta Braves 8-4 to avoid a three-game sweep. Diaz had run-scoring singles in the third and fourth, and a sacrifice fly in the eighth.



Cabrera, Tony Batista and Juan Rivera each had three of Montreal's season-high 17 hits.

Vargas (4-3) pitched six innings, allowing four hits and four runs. Montreal left a season-high 17 men left on base. But they had 27 base runners.

## DAY AND WILKERSON RETURN HOME

On Friday night, June 4th, Cincinnati native, Zach Day, the city's top high school player in 1999, had a cheering section of more than 100 relatives and friends in his first major league appearance in his hometown. He allowed only four hits in six innings, beating the Reds, 4-2. Montreal had scored only 21 runs in Day's 11 previous starts and been shut out three times. Wilkerson, who grew up in Kentucky rooting for the Reds, also had a cheering section. He homered twice, including a tiebreaking, two-run shot, in the seventh inning. Biddle worked the ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances. Adam Dunn hit a two run homer for the Reds.

## HONORING RONALD REAGAN

On Saturday night, June 5th, flags were lowered to half-staff, and a moment of silence was held for former President Reagan before the first pitch. Reagan, at age 93, had died earlier that morning.

Dunn's second homer of the game, a three-run shot in the 10th inning gave the Reds a 6-3 victory in front of a capacity crowd. Ken Griffey hit his 496th career homer. Tony Batista and Nick Johnson had hit back-to-back homers with two outs in the ninth to tie the game.

Ken Griffey Jr. hit two more homers on Sunday, June 6th, pushing his career total to 498.

The Reds won again, 6-5. Pinch-hitter Jacob Cruz hit a two-out, two-run homer off Biddle (0-4) in the ninth that tied the score. The Reds won the game on singles by pinch-hitter Barry Larkin, Ryan Freel and D'Angelo Jimenez. It was Biddle's 3rd blown save in 14 chances. Montreal had taken a 5-3 lead in the top of the ninth on pinch-hitter Terrmel Sledge's two-out RBI single and Wilkerson's run-scoring bunt single. The Expos had lost their past six series.

On Tuesday, June 8th, the Expos and Royals squared off in Kansas City in a match up between the worst teams in each league. It was Montreal's first ever visit to KC. Royals Pitcher Zack Greinke, the youngest player in the major leagues, hurled 7 shutout innings, posting a 4-2 victory.

Carlos Beltran had a two-run home run and Benito Santiago drove in two runs for KC. Jamey Carroll had an RBI single and Wilkerson drew a bases loaded walk. Chavez had three hits and made a diving two out catch in the fourth. He made another spectacular play in the eighth, leaping over the fence to rob Matt Stairs of a homer. Robinson replaced Biddle with Cordero as his closer.

The Wednesday night game was rained out.

On Thursday, June 10th, the Expos ended a three game skid and recorded their first doubleheader sweep in more than a year. In a game delayed nearly two hours by continuing showers, Day shut out the Royals on 6 hits in the opener, 8-0. It was the 10th time in 12 starts he had allowed three runs or fewer. Wilkerson homered and drove in three runs. Jamey Carroll, getting a rare start at second base, scored three runs and had three of Montreal's 16 hits. Cabrera also had three hits.



Tony Batista homered twice and Sun-Woo Kim pitched 4 1/3 perfect innings in relief leading the Expos to a 7-2 victory in the nightcap. But the win proved costly. Ohka, who had not lost in six starts since April 29<sup>th</sup>, was hit by Beltran's line drive in the third inning. He was taken away in obvious pain. His forearm was broken just above the wrist of his pitching hand. He would be out at least three months. Montreal pitchers had issued only one walk in 18 innings. Brian Schneider's two-run double made it 7-1 in the ninth.

The Expos had won six straight against left-handed starters.

The Mariners ended a 29-inning scoreless drought on Friday night, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at Safeco Field in Seattle. But just barely. Pat Borders' bases-loaded single with two outs in the ninth gave them a 1-0 victory over the Expos. Hernandez gave up 10 hits and struck out five in his 34th career complete game and third this season. He threw 135 pitches.

The Expos defense capitalized on aggressive base running by Seattle. In the first, Ichiro Suzuki was thrown out at the plate by left fielder Wilkerson. Randy Winn was thrown out by center fielder Endy Chavez in the fourth. Jolbert Cabrera was caught in a rundown in the third when he ran past third on a groundout to first baseman Nick Johnson. And in the eighth, Hernandez picked off pinch-runner Willie Bloomquist at first. The Expos had 15 outfield assists on the year.

## THE FEWEST ERRORS IN THE MAJORS

On Saturday night, Jamie Moyer pitched seven shutout innings and Hiram Bocachica hit his first homer in the majors in two seasons,

leading Seattle to a 3-0 victory. Moyer struck out a season-high seven. Cabrera and Jose Vidro each had three hits for Montreal, which was shut out for the 10th time, most in the majors. The Expos had not scored in their last 18 innings. But they continued to play sparkling defense. Wilkerson threw out Boone at the plate from left field in the fifth. Chavez's two-base throwing error in the third was his first error of the season. It brought Montreal's team total to 25, still the fewest in the majors.

## FRUSTRATION

Showing frustration with the team's plight, Wilkerson was ejected by plate umpire Charlie Reliford for arguing a called third strike in the seventh. And Everett, on the disabled list, was ejected for arguing from the bench. The Expos' Joe Horgan made his major league pitching debut.

The visiting Twins beat Montreal, 8-2, Tuesday night, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Torii Hunter homered and drove in three runs. Johan Santana had his longest outing of the season (8 innings) and hit an RBI single in his first plate appearance of the season. He retired 18 straight after giving up Wilkerson's double leading off the first. Day had his shortest career outing on his 26th birthday, allowing four hits and four runs in 1 1/3 innings.

On Wednesday night, June 16<sup>th</sup>, Luis Rivas' homered down the left field line in the 11th inning, sending the Minnesota Twins to a 5-4 win. TV replays showed that the drive was foul. Left fielder Wilkerson and third baseman Batista joined manager Robinson, who came out of the dugout to argue. The umpires conferred, but let the decision stand. Robinson was ejected. Only 3,763 fans showed up at Olympic Stadium. But several of those were upset enough to



bang on the door to the umpire's room after the game. The Expos dropped their fifth straight and were 0-5 in extra inning games. Cordero allowed two runs in the ninth, blowing his first save opportunity since replacing Rocky Biddle as Montreal's closer. Nick Johnson's two-run homer capped a four-run sixth inning for the Expos who held a players-only meeting before the game.

## DISCOUNT TICKETS AND HOT DOGS.

Matthew LeCroy hit his third pinch-hit homer in three at-bats this season, and the Minnesota Twins rallied to beat the Expos, 6-4, on Thursday night, June 17<sup>th</sup>. LeCroy's homer, a two run shot off Hernandez, tied the game in the seventh. Vidro homered and singled for Montreal to reach 1,000 career hits. He became the seventh player to get his first 1,000 hits with Montreal, and the first since Vladimir Guerrero. Hernandez made it 2-0 with a run-scoring single in the second for his first RBI of the season.

A promotion featuring discounted tickets and hot dogs helped draw a crowd of 10,044. It was just the third time the Expos had a crowd of more than 10,000 in 18 games at Olympic Stadium during the season.

On Friday, June 18, the Expos trailed 3-0 after the top of first, but scored five runs in the bottom half. But the White Sox won anyway, 11-7, extending the Expos' losing streak to seven games.

Wilkerson, Cabrera, and Vidro singled in the first. Everett hit a two-run double, but was thrown out at third. The Expos tied it at 3-3 on Juan Rivera's RBI grounder to short. Nick Johnson hit an RBI double and later scored on Batista's sacrifice fly. Carlos Lee led the White Sox, going 4-for-6 with four RBI.

## RAINES JERSEY RETIRED-BIGGEST INNING IN FIVE YEARS

On Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, Juan Rivera hit his first career grand slam and a two-run shot, both in the second inning. Montreal built a 10-run lead before holding on to win a wild 17-14 slugfest over Chicago. The 6 RBI inning tied Andre Dawson's team record. The 11 runs scored in second inning was Montreal's biggest inning in nearly five years. Tim Raines' No. 30 was retired by the Expos in a pre-game ceremony. The game drew 18,114, the biggest Olympic Stadium crowd since the Montreal opener. Sledge hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

## SHORTEST GAME

On Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> in Montreal, Cabrera hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning, giving Montreal a 4-2 win over the White Sox. Cabrera connected after Jose Vidro's one-out double. Vidro's two-run single in the sixth was, the Expos' only hit through the first eight innings. The game was played in just 1 hour, 54 minutes. Day allowed eight hits and two runs (only one earned) in eight innings.

Montreal recalled RHP Shawn Hill from Double-A Harrisburg following the game. RHP Jeremy Fikac, Saturday's winner, was optioned to Triple-A Edmonton.

On Tuesday night, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Olympic Stadium, Hernandez doubled twice and got his first win in five weeks, leading the Expos to a 5-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Hernandez has gone at least seven innings in 12 of 16 starts. Cordero pitched the ninth Wilkerson and Schneider each had three hits for Montreal.

Wilkerson joined manager Frank Robinson, hitting Coach Tom McCraw and right-hander T.J. Tucker for Hernandez's second round of golf Monday in a charity tournament.

On Wednesday night, June 23rd, Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 24th home run and Kevin Millwood won for the first time in eight starts, leading the Phillies to a 5-2 win. Mike Lieberthal and David Bell also had solo shots for Philadelphia. Vidro led off the bottom half of the sixth with his seventh homer, extending his hitting streak to 10 games. Kim allowed five runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. The Expos had lost eight of 11 and had the worst record in the majors at 23-46.

Tony Armas Jr. pitched six scoreless innings to win for the first time in 14 months and Tony Batista hit a two-run homer, leading Montreal over visiting Philadelphia, 3-2, Thursday, June 24th.

The Expos, who ended a 4-5 homestand, had won four of the last five.

Expos LF Carl Everett missed his fourth straight start because of a strained left hamstring. Everett, who is day-to-day, struck out as a pinch-hitter Wednesday. Montreal recalled left-hander Scott Downs from Triple-A Edmonton following the game. Left-hander Chad Bentz was optioned to Edmonton.

On Friday night, June 25<sup>th</sup> in at Toronto, Josh Towers allowed one run in seven-plus innings and Reed Johnson had two RBI, leading the Blue Jays to a 3-1 win over the Expos in the start of the Expos final series ever in Toronto. Day allowed three runs on eight hits in 6 1/3 innings.

On Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, Miguel Batista pitched seven strong innings, and Frank Menechino and Reed Johnson hit home runs to lead the Blue Jays past the Expos, 10-5. Toronto took advantage of a season-high three errors by Montreal, which led to four unearned runs. In the second inning, first baseman Johnson bobbled a ground ball for an error, and shortstop Cabrera had a ball skip off his glove. Center fielder Chavez's was charged with a throwing error in the third.

Vidro homered for the Expos. Downs, promoted from Triple-A Edmonton on Friday, allowed seven runs, only three earned, in 2 2/3 innings. Downs was the first left-hander to start for Montreal in 2004.

## LAST ALL CANADIAN INTER-LEAGUE GAME IN CANADA

Batista homered and tied a career high with five RBI against his former team, leading the Expos to a 9-4 victory over the Blue Jays on Sunday. In Montreal's last game in Toronto on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Staked to an 8-0 lead in the second, Hernandez (5-7) allowed four runs and nine hits in seven innings. Wilkerson, Cabrera, and Vidro led off the game with walks before Nick Johnson hit a sacrifice fly. Batista later added a two-run single.

Montreal scored five runs in the second. Wilkerson hit a two-run homer, and Batista a three-run shot. Vidro extended his hitting streak to 14 games with a single in the fourth. Attendance was 25,915.

On Monday night, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphia hammered the visiting Expos, 14-6. David Bell hit for the cycle. He doubled in the second,



homered in the fourth, singled in the sixth and hit a controversial triple in the seventh inning. Bell's drive to left-center in the seventh appeared to deflect off the outreached hands of a fan in the first row. The ball caromed toward center field and away from Montreal's Wilkerson. Wilkerson and manager Robinson claimed fan interference. But he umpires allowed the three-base hit to stand. Kim threw 101 pitches in just 3 2/3 innings.

Wilkerson and Sledge homered to give the Expos an early 3-0 lead. Tony Batista added a two-run shot off Millwood to bring Montreal within two in the sixth. Vidro singled in the third to extend his hitting streak to 15 games and later homered in the eighth.

Bell homered again on Tuesday night, June 29<sup>th</sup>, driving in three runs, and Philadelphia roughed up the Montreal Expos for the second straight night, 17-7. Montreal got back-to-back homers from Nick Johnson and Juan Rivera in the top of the fifth, cutting the lead to just one at 8-7. But the Phillies answered with a five run rally in the bottom half of the inning.

Shawn Hill, making his first major league appearance, surrendered eight runs, seven hits, and four walks in 2 2/3 innings. Vidro extended his hitting streak to 16 games with a single in the fifth. Cabrera had two stolen bases.

On Wednesday night, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Expos closed out the month with a rare come from behind win. Juan Rivera hit a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in the eighth inning, beating the Phillies, 6-3. Tony Batista and Wilkerson homered. Montreal was 0-37 when trailing after seven innings.

Batista connected for his 11th homer in the second, and Wilkerson hit his 15<sup>th</sup> in the fifth

Day labored throughout, walking a career-high seven, and giving up three runs on eight hits over 6 2/3 innings. Joe Horgan (1-0) got one out, with one pitch, in the seventh to pick up his first major league win.

Philadelphia's Jim Thome hit his 27<sup>th</sup> homer of the year in the home fifth, moving him into the league lead. Vidro batted .388 in June.

## JULY A WINNING MONTH AT 15-13

Mike Lieberthal hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, leading the Phillies in a 10-5 rout on Thursday night, July 1<sup>st</sup>, at Citizen's Bank Park, Pat Burrell had three hits and three RBI, Randy Wolf pitched seven innings for his first win since April 30. The Phillies had three six-run innings in the series. Wilkerson led off the game with his fourth homer in five games. It cleared the right field wall. It was his third lead off homer, all against the Phillies. An RBI double by Cabrera, a run-scoring single by Vidro, and a sacrifice fly by Batista gave the Expos a 4-1 lead in the third. But the Phillies answered with six runs off Scott Downs in the home half of the inning. Vidro extended his hitting streak to 18 games. He also homered for Montreal, which had the worst record in the majors at 26-51. The start of the game was delayed 29 minutes by rain.

## TORONTO—MONTREAL RIVALRY ENDS IN SAN JUAN

The Expos, however, played winning baseball in July. On Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> in San Juan., Hernandez (6-7) pitched a four-hitter for his fourth complete game of the season for a 2-0 victory over Toronto. After allowing a leadoff double, Hernandez retired 11 straight hitters



before Eric Hinske's single in the fourth. It was his sixth career shutout. Batista drove in two runs for the Expos. The game drew 8,220.

On Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Toronto's Eric Hinske went 4-for-4 and scored twice on RBI singles by Chris Gomez. The Blue Jay's Roy Halladay, the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner, allowed only five hits, posting a 2-0 win. Batista doubled in the second and advanced to third on a fielder's choice. He was the only Expo runner to reach third base.

Shawn Hill (1-1) pitched five strong innings on Sunday, July the 4<sup>th</sup>, to lead the Expos to a 6-4 win in his second big league start. He struck out six Blue Jays, retiring 10 of the first 12 batters he faced. Vargas relieved Hill with the bases loaded and no one out in the sixth. He struck out Eric Hinske, forced Chris Gomez to fly out, and struck out Alex Rios to end the threat. Toronto scored three runs off Cordero in the ninth. But Joe Horgan struck out Johnson with the bases loaded for his first career save. Batista and Everett each drove in two runs for Montreal.

The Expos finished 7-11 in Intra-league play.

The competitive portion of the Monday night, July 5<sup>th</sup> game against the visiting Braves did not last long. Andruw Jones hit a three-run homer in a six-run first inning leading Atlanta in an 11-4 rout. Chipper Jones had four hits. Day allowed eight runs and eight hits in 1 1-3 innings.

Everett hit his second home run of the season in the eighth for the Expos. It was just the second the Expos had hit through 15 games in Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

## LOWEST ATTENDANCE IN SAN JUAN

On Tuesday night, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Russ Ortiz (9-6) retired 14 of 16 batters, after allowing back-to-back singles to Wilkerson and Chavez to start the game. Atlanta won, 1-0. Smoltz came on to get the final out of the eighth and then pitched the ninth for his 15<sup>th</sup> save of the season. It was the 12<sup>th</sup> time Montreal was shut out in 2004, most in the majors. Downs (0-3) worked 6 1/3 innings. Horgan relieved with one out and runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the seventh. He intentionally walked Eli Marrero. But J.D. Drew's hard grounder to first was bobbled by Nick Johnson, allowing DeRosa to score. The attendance of 7,697 was the lowest in the 38 "home" games the Expos had played in Hiram Bithorn Stadium over two seasons.

On Wednesday night, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Atlanta completed the sweep with a 14-2 rout, hitting six homers. They were 6-0 in San Juan. They had six homers and hits. Drew singled, Chipper Jones walked and Johnny Estrada singled to load the bases in the third. LaRoche hit an RBI single, followed by A two-run double by Andruw Jones in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chased Hernandez after just 63 pitches.

## CLEMENTE'S NUMBER 21 RETIRED

On Thursday night, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Roberto Clemente's No. 21 was retired in a brief ceremony before the game. Clemente's widow threw out the first pitch. The Expos defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-1. Schneider hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth. Armas allowed just two hits and no runners beyond first base through six innings. The only run the right-hander gave up was unearned. Ayala pitched a perfect eighth, picking up the win. Cordero worked the ninth for his sixth save. Montreal tied it in the bottom half of the seventh. Endy Chavez tripled to deep right and scored on Batista's single to left.



## SMALLEST CROWD IN SAN JUAN

On Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Pittsburgh scored nine times in the second inning to back Sean Burnett's first career shutout in an 11-0 win over the Expos before 7,436, the smallest crowd of the year in San Juan. Pirate's rookie left fielder Jason Bay was 4-for-5 with a single, double and two homers.

Batista got his 1,000th career hit, a single in the eighth.

On Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Puerto Rican based Expos honored Roberto Clemente's teammates before the game. Clemente's grandson, Roberto Luis Clemente, Wearing the No. 21 Pirates jersey, ran the bases high-fiving with Bob Robertson at first, Steve Blass at second, Jose Pagan at third and Nellie Briles at home. He also threw out the first pitch.

Biddle pitched five scoreless innings to win his first start of the year, 4-0. Vargas, Horgan and Ayala combined to complete Montreal's seventh shutout of the season. The Pirates had just four hits. And Jamey Carroll hit a two run double in the seventh and scored on a single by Horgan's, his first career hit. The Expos scored in the first on Batista's RBI single to left. Batista was 1-for-4 and had a nine-game hitting streak.

## HASTA LA VISTA, EXPOS

All 22 games in Puerto Rico in 2004 were played before the All-Star break. There was little fanfare for the finale on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Scott Downs pitched seven sharp innings to give Montreal its first win by a left-handed starter in three years. The Expos beat the Pirates, 2-1. Sledge walked to open the fifth and advanced to third

on Schneider's single. Carroll hit a grounder double play grounder, but Pittsburgh second baseman Jose Castillo only got the force at second, allowing Sledge to score. And with two on in the bottom of the sixth, Castillo should had another easy double play on a ground ball hit by Sledge. But he only got the force at second and Batista, who had led off with a double, scored the game winner. Batista extended his hitting streak to 10 games.

Montreal took three of four from Pittsburgh and left Hiram Bithorn Stadium with a 7-14 record.

## THE ALL STAR BREAK

At the All-Star break the Expos had the majors' worst record, at 31-56.

On Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, in Atlanta, Marcus Giles hit two doubles in his first game in two months. Jaret Wright won his fifth straight decision, and the Braves beat the Expos for the fourth straight time, 8-0. Wright (7-5) allowed only one runner to reach third. Chipper Jones went 3-for-5 for the Braves. Chavez went 2-for-3 for Montreal. Hernandez made it only to the fifth inning.

On Friday night, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Vidro had three hits including a homer, helping the Montreal Expos beat Atlanta, 5-1. The loss dropped the Braves into a first-place tie with Philadelphia. Nick Johnson added two hits, including an RBI double in the eighth. The Expos' bullpen pitched 4 1/3 shutout innings in relief of Patterson.

The home standing Braves beat Montreal, 6-2, on Saturday night, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Marcus Giles hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning. Russ Ortiz allowed only one hit in 7 2/3 innings. The

Expos scored both their runs in the first. Wilkerson and Vidro walked. Everett scored Wilkerson with a single and Vidro scored on a force-out.

## EVERETT TRADED

Before the game on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Expos traded outfielder Carl Everett to the White Sox for minor league pitchers Jon Rauch and Gary Majewski. Everett had played in just 39 games because of injuries. At Turner Field, Atlanta's Eli Marrero hit a grand slam in the first inning. The Braves won 16-5 and moved into a first place tie with Philadelphia.

Tony Batista had a two-run homer and a double for Montreal. Chavez, Sledge, Rivera, and Carroll had two hits each.

## OUT AT HOME—TWICE IN AN INNING AND CABRERA'S STREAK

The Expos had two runners thrown out at the plate in the second inning. Juan Rivera opened the inning with a single and tried to score on a double to the wall in right-center by Sledge. He was thrown out at the plate on a perfect relay play from Andruw Jones to shortstop Rafael Furcal to catcher Eddie Perez. After Einar Diaz singled and Downs sacrificed, Chavez singled to center, scoring Sledge. But Jones threw out Diaz at the plate, ending the inning.

Cabrera played in his 259<sup>th</sup> consecutive game, tying Rusty Staub for the second-longest streak in Expos' history.

On Monday Night, July 19<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh, the Expos ended the Pittsburgh Pirates' 10-game home winning streak with a 6-2 victory. Sledge drove in two runs with a grounder just past first base during

a four-run seventh inning during which the Expos hit the ball out of the infield only twice.

Pinch-hitter Ron Calloway, just up from Triple-A Edmonton, hit a two-run single in the inning to put the Expos ahead.

Montreal had scored the fewest runs in the majors and hit the second fewest homers in the NL.

## SHORT 2 HOURS 14 MINUTES

On Tuesday night, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Sean Burnett limited the Expos to one run in seven innings. Rob Mackowiak hit a two-run homer in the first inning, leading the Pirates to a 2-1 victory.

Schneider hit an RBI single in the fourth. The game lasted just 2 hours, 14 minutes.

After Mackowiak's two-run drive in the first, Hernandez gave up only two harmless singles, striking out eight over eight innings, but the damage was done.

Chavez singled three times on Wednesday night, July 21<sup>st</sup>, at Shea Stadium in New York. But the Mets beat the Expos, 5-4. Nick Johnson dropped an easy throw from third baseman Batista with two outs in the eighth inning allowing the go-ahead run to score. Ty Wigginton, running all the way, scored easily from second, on Montreal's third error of the game. Montreal rallied from a 4-0 deficit to tie the game on a three-run homer by Endy Chavez in the seventh. Wilkerson hit his 17<sup>th</sup> home run in the fifth.

Tony Batista hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off John Franco with two outs in the eighth inning on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, leading the Expos to a 4-1 victory. Day, activated from the disabled list before the game, locked up in a duel with Tom Glavine on a hot and humid



day at Shea. Day gave up one run in six innings. Glavine allowed one run and five hits in seven.

The Expos tied it at 1-1 in the sixth on Wilkerson's 18<sup>th</sup> home run. That hit was first ruled a double. But the ball hit the screen in front of the picnic area above the leftfield wall. Robinson argued and the umpires conferred and determined it was a home run.

On Friday night, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, back in Montreal, Cabrera's sacrifice fly in the fourth ended Montreal's 42-inning scoreless streak against Florida. Vidro hit a go-ahead RBI double in the fifth to lead the Expos to a 2-1 victory. Armas Jr. pitched five strong innings. Juan Pierre stole home in the first inning for the only run for Florida. On the play catcher Schneider bruised his lower neck in the collision at the plate. Pierre went 3-for-5. The Marlins only had six hits. Wilkerson hit a leadoff single in the fifth and, scored the game winner on Vidro's one-out double.

## LAST EXPOS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Before the game on Saturday night, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Dennis Martinez, Bob Bailey, former coach Ron Piche and longtime French broadcaster Rodger Brulotte were honored and became the last group inducted into the Expos' Hall of Fame. A crowd of 7,229 was on hand. The Expos won their third straight, beating the Florida Marlins 6-2. Chavez hit a tying two-run triple in the sixth, then scored the go-ahead run on Carroll's sacrifice fly. In his longest outing, Biddle allowed two runs and six hits in six innings. He was 2-0 with a 2.25 ERA as a starter. Dontrelle Willis extended his scoreless streak against Montreal to 17 2/3 innings before Montreal's outburst in the sixth.

The Expos signed LHP Bill Bray, their first-round pick in the amateur draft. Bray, chosen 13<sup>th</sup> overall, was 11-10 with 11 saves and a 3.28 ERA in three seasons with William & Mary.

On Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, Hernandez threw six hitless innings and came within two outs of his second straight complete game, leading the Expos past the Marlins, 6-4. He retired the first 17 batters he faced before walking pinch-hitter Josh Willingham, and didn't allow a hit until Mike Lowell's double on the first pitch of the seventh. Hee Seop Choi followed with an RBI single. Florida scored two runs in the inning. Hernandez got standing ovations when he doubled to right with two outs in the top of the eighth and when he left the game with one out in the bottom of the ninth.

Batista hit a three-run homer to key a four-run fourth.

## BIGGEST OFFENSIVE OUTPUT— LONGEST GAME OF THE YEAR

Batista powered the Expos on Monday night, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at Olympic Stadium with four hits and a career-high six RBI. The Expos extended their winning streak to five with a 19-10 win over the New York Mets.

Vidro hit a three-run homer to spark a seven-run outburst in the third. The Expos also scored 4 in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Wilkerson had three hits. Cabrera doubled twice and had three RBI for Montreal.

Ron Calloway and Batista hit two-run homers. Montreal tied a season high with 18 hits.

Mets rookie David Wright hit his first major league home run in the second. The Mets' Richard Hidalgo homered twice and drove in three runs. Patterson, who allowed four New York's home runs, left with two out in the fifth with a 12-5 lead.



Mets infielder Todd Zeile pitched the eighth, allowing five runs. The three-hour, 38-minute game was the Expos' longest nine-inning game of the season.

New York snapped a losing streak on Tuesday night, July 27<sup>th</sup>, with a 4-2 victory.

Cameron connected for the second straight game, hitting a three run homer in the sixth, that did most of the damage against starter Day. Tom Glavine got the win. Wilkerson tied a career high with four hits, including a double in the sixth, before scoring the Expos' second run on Einar Diaz's sacrifice fly.

### AYALA AND CORDERO IN RELIEF

On Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Batista homered and drove in two runs, leading Montreal to a 7-4 win over New York, the Expos' sixth victory in seven games. Schneider also had two RBI, and Batista, Johnson and Chavez each scored twice for the Expos, who had scored a major league-low 359 runs. Luis Ayala pitched a perfect eighth to extend his shutout streak to 23 1/3 innings, the longest in the majors since Yankees closer Mariano Rivera finished the 1999 season hurling 30 scoreless innings. Cordero, who got the final three outs, was overshadowed. But he tied the Expos' rookie record for saves in a season set by Dale Murray in 1974.

Trailing 4-3, Montreal tied the game in the bottom of the fifth, when Endy Chavez followed Wilkerson's leadoff walk with an RBI triple. Johnson and Cabrera followed with run scoring doubles to make it 6-4. Batista hit his third homer in four games in the seventh.

### DISCOUNT TICKET AND HOT DOGS AGAIN

On Thursday night, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 20,042, the second-biggest crowd at Olympic Stadium during the final season, watched Eric Valent hit for the cycle, and Mike Cameron homer twice to lead New York to a 10-1 victory. Biddle allowed seven hits and five runs in three innings, his worst outing in four starts. Despite the loss, the Expos finished the home stand with a 5-2 mark.

### MARLINS MVP 1997 BEATS MARLINS MVP 2003

In Miami on Friday night, July 30<sup>th</sup>, Wilkerson and Nick Johnson homered to help the Expos to a 9-0 win over the Marlins. Hernandez (8-10), the 1997 World Series MVP for the Marlins, pitched a complete game three-hitter and defeated Josh Beckett, the 2003 Series MVP for the Marlins. He also went 3-for-4 at the plate with a two-run double in the eighth. By the fifth inning and with the Expos up 6-0, every player in the Expos lineup had a hit. Johnson had three RBI. Wilkerson had scored at least one run in the last 13 games that he started, a team record. Chavez had hit safely in 12 of 13 games.

At Joe Robbie Stadium on Saturday night, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Termel Sledge hit his first career grand slam in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning to lead the Montreal Expos to an 8-5 victory. Catcher Paul Lo Duca was acquired by Miami from the Dodgers the day before. He entered the game in the sixth as a pinch-hitter, homering in his first appearance for the Marlins. Patterson pitched five innings for Montreal, allowing six hits and three runs. Thus the Expos concluded the month with a 15-13 mark and their fifth straight win over the Marlins.



## CABRERA TRADED—LAST STAR TO LEAVE

Before the final game of the month the Expos traded the popular shortstop Cabrera to the Red Sox as part of a four-team deal. Orlando was the Expos' MVP two of the past three seasons, including 2003. Reluctant to resign with Montreal, he was clearly bothered by end of the 2003 season, when the Expos defied the odds and remained in the NL Wild Card race. MLB had not allowed Minaya to deal for stretch run help or to call up players from its minor leagues to take advantage of the expanded roster limit during September. "That was a message to the players, a momentum killer," Minaya said. "It was a momentum killer. We were as good as the Marlins in 2003 and they won the World Series." \*

Needing to replenish the farm system, the Expos received prospects Francis Beltran and Brendan Harris, and veteran Alex Gonzalez from the Cubs. Beltran and Harris were optioned to Triple-A Edmonton, while Gonzalez was expected to join the team in St. Louis. As part of the deal, the Red Sox acquired first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz from the Twins and sent shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, outfielder Matt Murton and cash to the Cubs. While the Twins acquired minor league left-handed pitcher Justin Jones.

## AUGUST ANOTHER WINNING MONTH

The Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> game in Miami was postponed because of rain.

In St. Louis on Tuesday night, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tony Batista hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth inning, then followed that with a grand slam in the 12th to lead the Montreal Expos over the Cardinals 10-

6. The grand slam, the eighth for Batista, was the 200th home run of his career.

The six RBIs matched Batista's career high. Chad Cordero pitched two innings for the win.

It was the Expos ninth win in 11 games and their first extra inning win.

On Wednesday night, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, Albert Pujols' walk off homer in the bottom of the ninth gave the Cardinals a 5-4 victory. His 31<sup>st</sup> homer of the season came off Cordero and capped a Cardinals' comeback. Expos starter Hernandez hit a two-run double in the fourth to make it 3-0. Hernandez gave up four runs, nine hits and four walks in 6 2/3 innings. Schneider got his first extra-base hit since July 8. Wilkerson failed to score a run, ending his team-record streak of 15 straight starts when he had scored at least once. The Expos had turned 11 double plays in 4 games.

## AYALA'S STREAK ENDS

On Thursday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, Scott Rolen hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, giving the Cards a 2-1 win. The home run snapped Ayala's scoreless streak at 26 2/3 innings. That was a franchise record scoreless streak by a Montreal reliever. John Wetteland pitched 25 consecutive scoreless innings in 1993.

"I threw my best pitch," Ayala said. "I think he was waiting for that pitch and it was a good pitch. I threw it inside, my sinker and it was for a strike—and that's the game." \* Chris Carpenter pitched eight innings for his 12th win. Vidro had an RBI double in the sixth to account for Montreal's lone run.

On Friday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, in Houston, Ray Oswalt struck out eight and walked one in his second shutout of the season, defeating the Expos, 4-0. Expos pitchers hit a season high 4 batters in the game. Astros' shortstop Adam Everett was hit by a pitch from Vargas in the fourth inning and broke the ulna bone.

## THE LONGEST WINNING STREAK— 7 GAMES

On Saturday Night, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, in Houston, the Expos snapped a three game slide and began their longest winning streak of the year. Jon Rauch, the tallest pitcher in professional baseball history at 6 feet-11, allowed three runs and seven hits in his first start with the Expos. Alex Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the eighth to lead Montreal to an 8-3 victory. Montréal scored four times in the seventh. Ron Calloway and Wilkerson walked to start the inning. Gonzalez singled in a run. Vidro singled in Wilkerson and Gonzalez, and scored on a groundout by Nick Johnson. Expos right fielder Juan Rivera threw out two runners, posting his 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> assist of the season.

Tony Batista's hit his 19<sup>th</sup> homerun. Catcher Schneider had not made an error in 90 appearances behind the plate. He had also thrown out 23 of 47 base runners attempting to steal.

On Sunday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, Gonzalez and Schneider hit back-to-back homers and the Expos beat Roger Clemens and the Houston Astros, 5-2. T.J. Tucker pitched two innings in relief for the win.

The game was tied at 1 in the seventh when the Expos rallied against Clemens.

With one out, Schneider reached on an infield error and Carroll followed with a ground-rule double. Vidro, pinch-hitting for Tucker, followed with an RBI single and Chavez singled in another. Gonzalez and Schneider homered in the eighth. Kim allowed three hits in four innings. Starting in place of Tony Armas, he hit Craig Biggio with a pitch leading off the game to raise his team-leading HBP total to 11. Armas had a cortizone shot in his ailing right deltoid muscle before the game.

On Tuesday night, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, Hernandez and Ayala combined on Montreal's ninth shutout to lead the Expos over Arizona and Randy Johnson 4-0. Hernandez (9-10) struck out eight in eight innings, allowing seven hits and two walks. Ayala pitched a one-hit ninth. Montreal took a 2-0 lead in the first on Batista's sacrifice fly and Rivera's run-scoring double. Brad Wilkerson added an RBI grounder in the second.

On Wednesday night, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, Brian Schneider's grand slam capped a six-run outburst in the fourth inning, and the Expos beat the Diamondbacks, 7-3. Patterson, who missed 2 1/2 months with a strained groin, took a shutout into the seventh and won for the first time in more than four months. Vidro's run-scoring liner to right in the fourth opened the scoring. Batista got his team-leading 70<sup>th</sup> RBI in the third. Rivera, Sledge and Batista had hit grand slams for Montreal earlier in the season.

On Thursday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Batista hit his 20<sup>th</sup> homer and drove in four runs, leading to a 7-5 victory over Arizona. Nick Johnson had a two-run double and 3 RBI. Former Rocky Biddle made the start. Cordero pitched the ninth for his 12<sup>th</sup> save in 13 opportunities. Batista had six RBI in the series and drove in runs in all three games. Montreal took all six games against the Diamondbacks.



## TWO STRAIGHT NO HIT BIDS AGAINST HOUSTON

On Friday night, Aug. 13, Gonzalez hit a tying homer in the 12th inning and Sledge singled in the winning run, as Montreal beat Houston, 6-5. Morgan Ensberg hit a leadoff homer on the first pitch from Vargas to put Houston up 5-4 in the top of the 12th.

Starter Jon Rauch homered off Roger Clemens before an injury forced him to abandon a no-hit bid with two outs in the fifth. It was his first major league hit. The Astros tied it in the bottom of the ninth on homers by Carlos Beltran and Jeff Kent off closer Chad Cordero.

Brad Ausmus lined a single to center on reliever Tucker's first pitch of the sixth to break up the no-hitter.

And on Saturday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, Johnson hit his second career grand slam to cap a five-run seventh, leading the Expos to an 8-3 win. And Tony Armas became the second straight Expos starter to yield no hits. The effort stretched the win streak to a season best seven. Out of action for three weeks, Armas limited to 77 pitches, gave up no hits in five innings. Tucker inherited—and lost—a no-hit bid for the second straight night, allowing Carlos Beltran's double past third base in the sixth.

A disputed Wilkerson homer in the first gave the Expos the lead. Replays showed that the drive to right-center landed on top of the outfield wall and bounced back onto the playing field. It never left the field of play. It was Wilkerson's fourth lead off homer of the year.

The Expos were still worst in the NL but were an amazing 18-9 after the All-Star Break. They had won 10 of 13.

But on Sunday, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, the Expos' longest 2004 winning streak, and their last franchise winning streak of any note, finally ended. Houston rallied in the ninth inning to win, 5-4. Pinch-hitter Orlando Palmeiro singled home the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth to give the Astros a 5-4 win. The Expos ten game errorless streak ended as well. Gonzalez misplayed Lance Berkman's grounder in the fourth. Nonetheless, it was a successful 5-1 home stand. Hernandez allowed four runs and six hits in 8 1/3 innings. Johnson homered for the second straight game.

On Monday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>, in San Francisco, pinch-hitter Ricky Ledee hit a tiebreaking single off Cordero in the eighth inning to lead the Giants to their fifth straight victory, 8-5. The Expos tied it in the top of the eighth on a sacrifice fly by Chavez. Barry Bonds went 0-for-2 with three walks. Former Expos star Marquis Grissom hit a two-run double for the Giants. Gonzalez had three hits and two RBI for Montreal. Expos starter Patterson retired nine of the first 11 batters.

On Tuesday night, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, at Pac Bell Park, Bonds homered twice and Jason Schmidt pitched eight strong innings. But the game was not decided until J.T. Snow singled in the winning run with one out in the ninth to give the Giants a 5-4 win. The homers left Bonds with 691 for his career.

## WHEN THE "HOME" TEAM ISN'T

On Wednesday night, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, the Expos snapped San Francisco's six-game winning streak with a 6-2 victory in the first game of a doubleheader. With the Giants trailing just 3-2 and two on in the bottom of the eighth inning, Bonds hit a foul pop to third



baseman Batista. Then Wilkerson's RBI double capped a three-run inning in the top of the ninth. Vidro homered and drove in three runs. It was the 100th homer of his career.

The doubleheader became necessary because of a rainout in San Juan on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It cost the Expos a "home" game. Despite a protest by the Expos, Montreal did not get to bat last in either game. Bonds led the Giants to a 14-4 rout in second game, homering for the third time in two days. Former Expo Marquis Grissom drove in three runs.

On Friday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, Batista hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and had three RBI at Coors Field in Denver. The Expos beat the Rockies 4-3. Starter Tony Armas was hit on the shin by a hard grounder by J.D. Closser in the second. Nick Johnson was injured in the third inning when a shot by Royce Clayton took an odd bounce and hit him in the face. Both players left the game. Wilkerson led off the eighth inning with a double and scored the tying run when Vidro grounded into a double play. Cordero pitched the ninth, recording his 13<sup>th</sup> and final save of the year. That established a franchise record for a rookie.

## 2 HOURS AND 14 MINUTES AGAIN

On Saturday night, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>, the Rockies ended a three-game skid with a 5-2 victory over the Expos. Todd Helton homered and Joe Kennedy won for the first time in two months. Vidro homered in the first inning. The game lasted just 2 hours and 14 minutes. It was the fifth shortest nine-inning game ever played at Coors Field. The Expos had also played a 2 hour and 14 minute game in Pittsburgh on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Hernandez (9-11) worked eight innings in his seventh complete game of the year. He allowed four earned runs. He had won three consecutive decisions. Montreal placed Nick Johnson on the 15-day disabled list with a broken cheekbone. Outfielder Ryan Church was recalled from Edmonton.

## RYAN CHURCH'S MAJOR LEAGUE DEBUT

On Sunday, Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, Patterson worked six strong innings. He allowed a run and four hits, posting an 8-2 win over the Rockies. Rivera went 4-for-5 with a homer, three RBI and three runs scored. Ryan Church had three hits and two RBI in his major league debut. The Expos scored two runs in the first inning on two-out RBI singles by Church and Gonzalez.

Montréal won the season series with the Rockies, 4 games to 2. Nick Johnson was shut down for the season and sent home to recuperate from his broken cheekbone.

On Monday night, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>, back in Montreal, Juan Rivera drew a walk with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth inning, and the Expos had an 8-7 victory over the LA Dodgers.

Los Angeles relief pitcher Giovanni Carrara hadn't allowed a run in 18 2/3 innings before walking Rivera. Brian Schneider's one-out double started the trouble for Carrara. Wilkerson was walked intentionally and Batista walked to load the bases. The Dodgers had trailed, 7-1. Starter Sun-Woo Kim allowed only an unearned run in 5 2/3 innings but Steve Finley's three-run double keyed a three run seventh. Adrian Beltre tied it at 7 with a two-run shot off closer Cordero in the bottom of the 9th. It was his 39th homer. Cordero blew a save for the third time in 16 opportunities. But he got the win.



Einar Diaz hit his first NL homer for Montréal. Gonzalez and Wilkerson each hit two run homers. It was Wilkerson's team leading 23<sup>rd</sup> homer.

On Tuesday night, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>, Adrian Beltre hit a grand slam, his major league leading 40th home run. Alex Cora also homered and had five RBI to lead the Dodgers over Montreal Expos 10-2. Los Angeles scored eight times in the fifth, its biggest inning of the season. Beltre connected off Rocky Biddle, who threw 104 pitches in 4 2/3 innings, allowing seven runs. Batista doubled twice and scored both Montreal runs on RBI doubles.

Montreal lost for just the fifth time in its last 20 games at Olympic Stadium.

## ROBINSON WINS NUMBER 900

On Tuesday night, Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>, Montreal hit four homers beating Los Angeles 6-3, giving Robinson his 900th managerial victory. Wilkerson hit a leadoff home run in the first inning, and Batista, Rivera, and Schneider later homered. Batista was hit in the helmet in the seventh by a pitch from reliever Duaner Sanchez, who was immediately ejected by plate umpire Tim Timmons. Batista drew cheers from the crowd as he got to his feet and sprinted to first. Dodger starter Jose Lima took the loss. He had won five straight decisions.

## VIDRO HAS SEASON ENDING SURGERY.

Vidro was scheduled for season-ending knee surgery Sept. 8.

## RETURN OF THE NATIVE-GAGNE

On Thursday night, Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, the Dodgers routed the Expos, 10-3. Adrian Beltre hit his major league-high 41st homer. But 18,520, the Expos' third largest crowd at home in their final season, came to say farewell to a Dodger star and Montreal native, Eric Gagne. Despite a seven-run lead, the accommodating Dodgers used their closer in the ninth inning. Gagne, pitching at home for the first time since winning last year's NL Cy Young Award, got a standing ovation. He retired three in a row after a leadoff walk. Expos roving Coach Claude Raymond, another Quebec native, got a similar rousing ovation when he made his Jarry Park debut while pitching for Atlanta during Montreal's inaugural season. Steve Finley had three hits, including a homer, and four RBI for the Dodgers. Hernandez hit a two-run homer in the fifth to tie it at 3. It was the fifth homer of his career.

Brought up from Triple-A Edmonton, Expos right-hander Gary Majewski made his major league debut after Finley's homer in the 6<sup>th</sup>. He struck out Milton Bradley to end the 6<sup>th</sup>. Hernandez's home run was the fifth of his career and his first with Montreal.

## DONALD SUTHERLAND SAYS GOODBYE

Actor Donald Sutherland took in the Aug 26th game from his once-customary box seat in the front row beside the visiting dugout. Sutherland, who used to be a virtual fixture at Olympic Stadium, shook hands and talked with players prior to the game. Dodgers hitting Coach Tim Wallach, who starred for the Expos from 1980-92, was given a standing ovation when he was shown on the video board in the fourth. He took a brief curtain call.

## MACIER IZTURIS MAKES HIS MAJOR LEAGUE DEBUT

On Friday, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, Wilkerson homered and had three RBI. Batista contributed a two-run homer. The Expos beat the San Diego Padres, 10-3. The attendance was 3,923. It was the fifth time during the year the Expos drew less than 4000. Scott Downs, recalled from Edmonton, allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings in his sixth start of the season. The win ended a four game Padre winning streak. Sledge hit a two-run triple in the eighth to complete the scoring.

Montreal shortstop Maicer Izturis, the younger brother of Los Angeles shortstop Cesar Izturis, made his major league debut, singling in his first major league at bat in the second inning. Padres' first baseman Phil Nevin handed Izturis the ball as a keepsake.

Wilkerson led Montreal with 83 RBI. "We've got a good young ball club here," Wilkerson said. "We're not going to be in the playoffs but we're going to put a dent in the playoff hopes of some teams that we're going to be playing. We're still playing for something and we're going out there and playing hard each and every night and trying to improve." \*

On Saturday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, San Diego's Jake Peavy, unbeaten in nine starts since the All-Star break, beat the Expos, 5-2. Phil Nevin homered and drove in three runs for San Diego. Ramon Hernandez hit a leadoff homer in the fourth to put San Diego up 3-2. Trevor Hoffman struck out the side in the ninth for his 33rd save. The Expos scored both their runs in the first. Wilkerson hit a leadoff single and scored on a double by Batista. Sledge walked and Schneider hit a run scoring single.

On Sunday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>, San Diego's David Wells' first career RBI in the fourth gave the Padres a 4-0 lead. He allowed eight hits and three runs in seven innings, posting and 11-3 victory.

Montreal had made the second-fewest errors in the NL, but made five in this game. That was just one short of the franchise record. Schneider had yet to commit an error and had just three passed balls in 109 games. He had a 50 percent success rate against attempted base stealers, having thrown out 31 of 62.

On Monday night, Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>, in Montreal, Greg Maddux, who had reached 300 wins on Aug. 7, scattered five hits, struck out two and walked none. The Cubs beat the Expos, 5-2. Maddux also went 2-for-3, including an RBI single. Sledge hit a two-run homer in the ninth for the Expos. Sammy Sosa hit a two-run double off Rocky Biddle (4-8) in the Cubs' four-run third.

## HERNANDEZ A SILVER SLUGGER CANDIDATE

On Tuesday night, Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, Hernandez punctuated a successful month, allowing three hits in eight scoreless innings. He also contributed two hits, including an RBI single. Montreal beat the visiting Cubs, 8-0. Wilkerson and Maicer Izturis each hit home runs. Hernandez, batting .269 (18-for-67) with seven doubles, one homer and nine RBIs, was a serious candidate for the Silver Slugger award for the NL's best-hitting pitcher. T.J. Tucker allowed a leadoff single in the ninth before completing Montreal's 10th shutout. Batista struck out five times in five at-bats, tying the major league record for most strikeouts in a nine-inning game.



Wilkerson's homer was his 26<sup>th</sup>. It was also his seventh leadoff homer of the season, the most in the majors. Izturis' homer in the fourth was the first of his career.

## SEPTEMBER

On Wednesday night, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, Nomar Garciaparra scored the go-ahead run on Claudio Vargas' wild pitch with two out in the 11th inning. Mark Grudzielanek added an RBI single to give Chicago a 2-0 lead. Endy Chavez threw a runner at the plate to end the top of the 11th and singled home a run in the bottom half. But the Cubs held on to win, 2-1. Kerry Wood struck out 11 in eight shutout innings for the Cubs. Expos starter Tony Armas Jr. allowed four hits in six scoreless innings, his longest outing in his last six starts.

On Friday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Olympic Stadium, the Braves won, 7-1. Paul Byrd held the Expos scoreless into the eighth. Eli Marrero homered for the Braves. Izturis led off the game with a triple and scored the Expos only run.

On Saturday night, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, Atlanta's Russ Ortiz pitched his first shutout of the year, beating the Expos, 9-0. He retired the first 15 batters before Einar Diaz singled to lead off the sixth. Andruw Jones hit a grand slam. Patterson allowed three hits and six runs in two-plus innings. The Expos had now been shut out 16 times, four times by Atlanta.

On Sunday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, Batista hit a RBI double in the 12th inning beating the Atlanta Braves, 4-3. Chavez scored the winning run as teammates spilled out of the dugout. Wilkerson homered and Schneider tied a career high with four hits for the Expos. Trailing 3-2 after Atlanta scored twice in top of the eighth, Hernandez was

denied his first win over Atlanta in over four years despite allowing just three hits over seven strong innings. But Montreal tied it in the bottom half with a run on third baseman Chipper Jones' throwing error. Cordero entered the game with two on and two outs in the ninth. He struck out Andruw Jones. Six Expos pitchers, including starter Hernandez, combined for a season-high 11 walks. Tucker (4-2) allowed one hit and struck out one in the 12th to pick up the win. Wilkerson hit a major league-leading eighth leadoff homer in the first. It was his 27<sup>th</sup> homer overall. Montreal finished 5-8 on the 13-game home stand, longest of the year.

Aramis Ramirez hit a pair of two-run homers on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Carlos Zambrano posted a 9-1 victory over the Expos. Mark Grudzielanek, Derrek Lee and Michael Barrett also homered for the Cubs, who had their previous three games, in Miami, postponed by Hurricane Frances. Armas lasted just three innings. Rivera doubled and scored the Expos' only run.

## SCHNEIDER HITS GO AHEAD SINGLE— MAKES FIRST ERROR OF THE YEAR

On Tuesday night, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Schneider hit a go-ahead single in the 12th, and Jamey Carroll added a sacrifice fly for Montreal, who won, 7-6. Chicago starter Matt Clement left early with an injury. Corey Patterson, who homered twice for the Cubs, hit a solo shot off Joe Horgan in the bottom of the 12th. Cordero got the victory with two scoreless innings of relief at Wrigley Field. Horgan got his second save. Sledge homered for Montréal. Chavez had four hits.

Four straight Expos' singles in the top of the seventh tied the game at 3-3. Sledge and Rivera then drew back-to-back bases-loaded



walks, giving Montreal a 5-3 lead. Expos starter Kim, seeking his first win since June 10<sup>th</sup>, allowed seven hits and three runs, none earned—in six innings. With a runner on third in the fourth, Kim threw a wild pitch. Catcher Schneider retrieved the ball, but his throw to the plate got by Kim. It was his first error of the year and over a span of 166 games.

On Wednesday night, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Scott Downs out pitched Greg Maddux, shutting out the Cubs, 6-0. It was his first complete game. He retired 15 straight after giving up a single to Moises Alou in the second. Chicago had traded Downs to Montreal in 2000 for Rondell White. The Expos scored a run in the third on a sacrifice fly by Wilkerson and added five more runs in the eighth. Sledge homered with two out in the eighth to close the scoring.

On Friday night, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, in Atlanta, the Braves won, 4-3. Braves starter John Thomson gave up three hits and an unearned run in the first. Charles Thomas ended that the inning by throwing out Termel Sledge at the plate. Thomas opened the bottom half of the inning by singling to right. Chipper Jones walked with two out and Johnny Estrada homered to right to make it 3-1. Wilkerson scored on an infield hit by Rivera in the fifth to make it 3-2. Marcus Giles, homer to left in the bottom half of the fifth was the game winner.

### 143 PITCHES FOR HERNANDEZ

On Saturday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at Turner Field, Hernandez pitched into the seventh inning. But the Braves sent 11 batters to the plate in their half of that inning, scoring 6 runs, posting an 8-2 victory. Andruw Jones and Rafael Furcal each homered. Wilkerson's 28th homer accounted for Montreal's only run. Hernandez set a season high by throwing 143 pitches.

Andruw Jones hit a winning double in the 12th inning on Sunday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, to lead the Atlanta Braves over the Expos again, 9-8. Though he only gave up 2 runs, Braves starter Jose Capellan, making his major league debut, needed 111 pitches to get through the five innings.

John Smoltz, who failed to convert a save for the fourth time in 41 chances, had an 8-5 lead but gave up run-scoring singles to Chavez, Sledge and Rivera.

Batista and Sledge each had a home run, three hits and three RBIs for the Expos.

Chavez had two steals, increasing his total to 27 for the season.

### HURRICANE IVAN—A TRIP TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO— THE SMALLEST ROAD CROWDS OF THE YEAR.

The Florida Marlins were the home team on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. But the home field was Cellular Field in Chicago, home field of the American League White Sox. Chased out of Florida by Hurricane Ivan, the Marlins scored six runs in the eighth-inning to beat the Expos, 6-3. The Marlins were already in Chicago following a weekend series against the Cubs. The White Sox were on the road. The upper deck was closed. All tickets were sold for the general admission price of \$15 each. \$5 went to a hurricane relief fund. All 4003 fans sat close to the field. It was, understandably, the smallest road crowd of the year.



Sun-Woo Kim blanked the Marlins for seven innings. Florida scored five unearned runs in the eighth. The Expos committed three errors in the inning. Batista homered in the ninth. Montreal had beaten Florida five straight times.

On Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Conine's seventh inning walk with the bases loaded forced in the go-ahead run at for the homestanding Marlins. Juan Encarnacion followed with a sacrifice fly for an insurance run and the Marlins beat the Expos, 8-6, for a sweep of their miniseries at U.S. Cellular Field. Conine, Alex Gonzalez and Miguel Cabrera all homered off of left-hander Downs in the third inning. But Montreal battled back from a 6-1 deficit.

Batista hit a three-run homer in the seventh to tie the game. 5,457 were on hand for the second rare National League game on Chicago's south side. It was the second smallest road crowd of the year.

### HIDDEN BALL TRICK—THREE EXPOS HIT THEIR FIRST CAREER HOMERS

The series continued on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, in the Marlins real home, Joe Robbie Stadium in Florida. The Expos swept both games of a doubleheader, 6-2, and 10-4. The post Hurricane weather was partly cloudy and 86 degrees. But Montreal rained on Florida's hopes to return to the playoffs and on starter Carl Pavano's bid to become the National League's first 18 game winner in 2004. Ryan Church, Val Pascucci, and Brendan Harris all hit their first career homers that same afternoon. In the first game, Wilkerson hit his ninth leadoff homer of the season. Church also homered. Patterson (4-5) gave up two runs and six hits in eight innings with seven strikeouts.

Third baseman Mike Lowell successfully completed the hidden ball trick to help the Marlins escape a two-out jam in the fourth. Schneider reached third safely on a two out single by Patterson. The bases were loaded Wilkerson due up. Lowell faked throwing the ball to Pavano. Schneider took the bait, straying off third with a lead, and was tagged out. Rivera hit a two-run shot in the ninth. Batista and Pascucci hit three-run homers for the Expos, who jumped out to a 4-0 lead, in the second game. Harris homered to lead off the eighth inning. Rauch pitched three scoreless innings in relief of starter Ohka, who pitched three innings in his first start since breaking his arm on June 10 against Kansas City.

Montreal had 27 hits in the doubleheader, becoming the first team ever to sweep a doubleheader from the Marlins in Florida.

On Thursday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, Batista's two-out homer off Dontrelle Willis in the top of the fifth put the Expos ahead, 3-0. But the Marlins Juan Encarnacion hit a two-run triple to tie the game in the bottom of the fifth, and Jeff Conine drove in the go-ahead run with a sixth-inning single. The Marlins won, 4-3. Hernandez (10-14) took the loss despite pitching his major league-leading eighth complete game.

In Philadelphia, Batista hit a go-ahead two-run single in a five-run ninth inning on Friday night, September 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Expos rallied for a 12-8 victory over the Phillies. Batista had three RBI to give him 100 for the year. Rivera went 2-for-4 with a homer and three RBI for the Expos, who trailed by four in the eighth. Placido Polanco gave the Phillies a 6-3 led with a two-out, two-run single in the sixth off reliever Francis Beltran. David Bell, batting fourth for the first time in 2004, added a solo shot in the seventh.



Tony Batista's two-out RBI single in the 14th inning lifted the Expos to a 6-5 victory in Philadelphia on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The hit scored Chavez who had walked and stolen second. Batista finished 4-for-6 with a triple and a double. Sledge homered and drove in three runs for Montreal. Cordero allowed one hit in three innings. Francis Beltran pitched the 14th for his first career save. Philadelphia, trailed, 4-0, after three innings. But the game was tied a 5-5 after 7 innings. Batista had 17 RBI in eight games.

On Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, in Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins and Placido Polanco each had three hits, leading the Phillies to a 7-2 win. Mike Lieberthal homered. Kevin Millwood left that game after two innings with soreness in his elbow. Batista's RBI double in the first put Montreal ahead, briefly. Chavez tied the game at 2-2 in the fourth with an RBI single. Downs gave up five runs and eight hits in four innings. Montreal stranded 13 runners, leaving the bases loaded three times.

Batista went 8-for-14 (.571) with six RBI in the series.

## ON THE VERGE OF CLIMBING OUT OF LAST PLACE

Last in the NL East since April 15, the Expos briefly moved within one game of tying New York for fourth place in the division by beating the visiting Mets, 5-1 on Tuesday night, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Batista hit his 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> homeruns of the season, increasing his team-leading RBI total to 106.

Hernandez struck out five and hurled his major league-leading ninth complete game. He led the major leagues with 240 innings pitched. There were just 3,839 at Olympic Stadium.

Mike Piazza hit his 20th homer for New York. Batista and Rivera homered back to back in the sixth. Terrmel Sledge went 4 for 4.

On Wednesday night, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Montreal, Piazza hit a two-out, RBI single in the eighth inning to help the Mets post a 3-2 win. Only 3,664 were on hand for the game, the second-smallest Olympic Stadium crowd of the season. Batista hit his team leading 31<sup>st</sup> homer and his third homer in two games. That led off the sixth and tied the game at 2-all. The blast broke Larry Parrish's team record for homers in a season by a third baseman set in 1979. Batista had seven homers and 19 RBI since Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

## DISCOUNT TICKETS AND HOT DOGS FOR A THIRD TIME

The Mets beat the Expo, 4-2, on Thursday night, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The now familiar discount ticket and hot dog promotion drew 11,142 this time. Montreal's Gerald Williams and Victor Diaz homered for New York. Tom Glavine was the winning pitcher. Ohka, making his first start since breaking his forearm on June 10<sup>th</sup>, allowed eight hits and four runs in five innings. Wilkerson went 3-for-4 and homered with one out in the third, tying Batista for the team lead with 31 homers. Montréal had two 30-home run hitters in the same season for the first time in franchise history.

## FINAL HOME WIN

On Friday night, September 25<sup>th</sup>, the Expos won at home for the last time, defeating Philadelphia, 8-1. Kim lost a shutout bid on, his 123<sup>rd</sup>, and final, pitch of the game. He allowed seven hits and one run in 8 2/3 innings, his longest outing in 26 career starts. He also hit a two run double in the fourth. Jason Michaels hit a run scoring double with two outs in the ninth. Sledge homered to right in the fifth to make it 8-0. Batista had an RBI double in the first and a sacrifice fly in the



third to put Montreal up 2-0. The Expos had six straight hits to begin the fourth, including Juan Rivera's leadoff double that extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

## A FAN PROTEST AND WILKERSON GETS 100 WALKS

About 500 Expos fans held a 30-minute rally before the game at Olympic Stadium on Saturday night, September 25<sup>th</sup>, protesting major league baseball's intent to relocate their team. There were 8,491 fans in attendance. Philadelphia's Mike Lieberthal hit a go-ahead single in the top of the 10th inning. Ryan Howard added a run-scoring double to lead Philadelphia over the Expos, 4-3. Batista hit a solo homer, his 32<sup>nd</sup>, in the bottom half of the tenth. Downs pitched four-hit ball into the eighth inning. Wilkerson drew an intentional walk in the second to become the first Expos player to reach 100 walks in a season since Bob Bailey in 1974.

## EASIER NOT TO GO THROUGH CUSTOMS

Before Philadelphia's last game ever at Olympic Stadium on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Phillies manager Larry Bowa mused over the loss of the Expos. "It will be a lot easier not to go through customs," he said. \* The first 10,000 of the 12,382 fans to arrive were given an Expos winter knit cap. Bobby Abreu hit a two-run double, providing all the Philadelphia scoring in a 2-1 victory.

Schneider's RBI single in the fifth accounted for the only Expos run.

Cory Lidle allowed four hits, leaving after Maicer Izturis' one-out single in the eighth.

Hernandez allowed 10 hits but just the two runs in eight innings. He struck out nine and walked three. But he told reporters he did not blame a lack of run support for his 10-15 record.

On Monday night, September 27<sup>th</sup>, Josh Beckett pitched seven strong innings and Miguel Cabrera hit his 31st homer, leading the Florida Marlins to a 4-1 win. Only 3,923 fans were on hand.

There was a significant increase in media coverage.

On Tuesday night, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Conine homered and Mike Lowell drove in two runs to lead the Marlins over Montreal again, 5-2. Rivera hit a two-run homer with two outs in the sixth. Ohka allowed five hits and three runs in five innings for Montreal.

## THAT'S ALL—NO REPRIEVE

The end was coming and it was real this time. There would be no pardon. No stay of execution. These were the final days and hours.

"For me, we succeeded in keeping the Expos here three years longer than anyone had anticipated," Expos Executive Vice President Claude Delorme said. "The fans are often criticized, but I think there isn't a market in North America that would have supported their team over 10 or 11 years with everything that has happened, from the fire sales to contraction to relocation. Montreal responded very well to this, and showed what quality citizens and truly classy fans they really are." \*

But it was time, finally, to bid good-bye to Molson Ale, smoked meat sandwiches, poutine, and Oh Henry candy bars, Youppi, the Canadiens, and currency exchange kiosks. The Expos, the first franchise to abandon two cities simultaneously, would end their

relationship with San Juan, Puerto Rico as well. There were short time fans in San Juan who had gotten used to going out to the ball park.

## AU REVOIR EXPOS

On Wednesday evening, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004, at Olympic Stadium a crowd of 31,395, the largest of the year in Montreal, gathered to say goodbye one final time. The increased security staff made its presence known, but was not confrontational. And, in general, the atmosphere was very cordial.

As the fans entered Olympic Stadium, the local rock 'n roll group, Body Groove, played The Kinks' hit "You Really Got Me" and other oldies classic rock hits. Fans were still streaming into Olympic Stadium during the second inning Wednesday night. The seldom-used upper deck was already filling with spectators for the 2,786<sup>th</sup> and last game in Montreal. Recorded messages from former Expos manager Felipe Alou, and former player Marquis Grissom, were played on the video scoreboard. Many fans brought gloves and played catch on the field. Others mingled with the players on the field and collected autographs. Allen Mansell, who had attended every Expos home game, wore his familiar Expos cowboy hat already adorned with hundreds of autographs. He collected a few more.

"It's tough. It was a good four years," Brad Wilkerson said. "This is the first place that gave me an opportunity in the big leagues. I feel bad for the city." \*

"I played here 12 years, and in the heyday, this place was packed and it was as loud as any in MLB," said former speedy outfielder Tim Raines, whose jersey, No. 30, was retired by the organization. \*

Raines number was displayed upon the right field wall along with Gary Carter's No. 8. There were two No. 10 Jerseys honoring Andre Dawson and Rust Staub.

Several members of the 1994 team were present. "That was a great group of guys that the fans really got attached to," said Ken Hill, the ace of the best team never to play in the postseason. \* For the occasion, there was a banner placed on the left-center-field wall, honoring that team, the team with the best record in baseball.

Former reliever Joey Eischen, who made his Major League debut with the Expos in the unfinished 94 campaign was there. "Gary Carter, Tim Raines, they're not going to Washington," the left-hander said, pointing to the retired numbers on the right-field wall. \*

Ironically, Dave Van Horne, a fixture in the Expos' broadcast booth for 32 years, the sixth-longest tenure in National League history, broadcast the last game at Olympic Stadium, as the voice of the Florida Marlins. "The failure of the Montreal franchise cannot be laid at the feet of Jeffrey Loria," Van Horne told reporters. "The problems in Montreal began 10 to 15 years ago. I'm sad it hasn't worked out here. But I shed my tears for this franchise and its demise in the late '90s. So I have gotten over that." \* Van Horne was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame as a broadcaster in 1996.

The largest home crowd of the year, 31,395, cheered the Canadian national anthem and Wilkerson's hard slide into Marlins shortstop Alex Gonzalez in the first inning. The visiting Florida Marlins, having no sense of occasion, were unsympathetic, defeating the home team 9-1.



Expos starter Sun-woo Kim (4-6) lasted only two-plus innings. The Marlins scored four times in the second inning and four times in the fifth. There was a 10-minute delay in the third inning when players were pulled off the field after a fan threw a golf ball that landed near second base. The crowd was warned the game could be forfeited if there were any more problems.

Three plastic bottles were tossed into left field in the sixth, one near Florida's Miguel Cabrera. The game was held up again. But the teams remained on the field and no announcement was made.

Reminiscent of the final game in Washington some 33 years earlier, a single fan jumped onto the field near Florida's on-deck circle with two outs in the ninth, but was quickly escorted off by two security guards. In Washington what minimal security there was failed to act and the final out was never recorded. Former Expo Carl Pavano (18-8) set a Marlins record for wins.

Flashbulbs popped as Sledge popped up for the final out. Marlins coach Perry Hill took the ball from third baseman Mike Mordecai and tossed it across the field to Robinson.

Chad Cordero, who allowed one hit and no runs in the top of the 9<sup>th</sup>, became the last pitcher in Montreal history. His cap was sent to the Hall of Fame.

Some fans stood with tears in their eyes, and others waved flags and signs during the final inning when it was over, all the Expos poured onto the field to wave goodbye. Paul McCartney's "Yesterday" played over the loud speakers as the cheering died down.

The fans had had plenty of chances in recent years to say goodbye. But this time it was a final goodbye.

"Now it can't be undone," Montreal manager Frank Robinson said. "It's like you want to stand still right now and not rush out of here, savor every moment you can be here."

Montreal first baseman Brad Wilkerson said. "Give credit to the fans for being smart about things, coming out and watching a ball game, and cheering and not doing anything too serious."

## OCTOBER

The team finished up by winning two of its three final games against the Mets at Shea.

On Friday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, Sledge, having taken over the number four spot in the batting order, hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning. The Expos opened the team's final series with a 4-2 win. Sledge and Brian Schneider each drove in two runs for the Expos, who snapped a five-game losing streak. Sledge raised his average to .263. His two RBI gave him 22 in the last 20 games. Chavez drew a leadoff walk from Pedro Feliciano (1-1) in the eighth, moved to second on Tony Batista's single off Tyler Yates and scored on Sledge's double to left center. Juan Rivera walked to load the bases and Schneider singled to give Montreal a 4-2 lead. Jon Rauch (3-0) pitched one scoreless inning for the victory. Chad Cordero got his 14th save.

Former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent attended the game.

## LAST WIN

On Saturday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, First baseman Wilkerson's three-run homer in the ninth inning led the Expos to a 6-3 victory, their last as representatives of Montreal. Cordero (7-3, 2.94) was the last

winning pitcher for the Expos. Gary Majewski pitched the ninth for his first major league save. Bench coach Eddie Rodriguez was the manager for the day, in place of Robinson.

Rivera and Pascucci hit sixth-inning homers to give the Expos a 3-1 lead. New York tied it at 3-3 in the eighth on shortstop Maicer Izturis' throwing error, which allowed Kaz Matsui to score.

Hernandez limited the Mets to six hits over seven innings, striking out seven and walking none. The start was the 36th of the season for Hernandez, a career high. He finished the year with a major league-high 255 innings pitched.

## THE FINAL GOODBYE AT SHEA

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Expos lost, 8-1, to the Mets in their final game before a surprisingly large crowd, 33,569, attracted less by the match up of the two worst teams in the National League than with the chance to witness baseball history of a sort. The Mets fans, with a sense of occasion, sympathetically began to chant "Let's go Expos!" in the ninth inning. New York's older National League fans had felt the pain of losing a team some 12 years before the Expos were born. The Expos 36 year run thus began and ended at Shea Stadium in New York.

The Expos scored a run on Sledge's RBI single, but got just three hits against Tom Glavine in six innings.

"As a broadcaster, I never had blasted a manager during a broadcast before that last game.

But I did that day. As the game unfolded, at one point I said on the air that the way

Frank Robinson was managing that day was an insult to our intelligence," said broadcaster Jacques Doucet.

The Expos trailed only 4-1 in the top of the sixth and the top of the Montreal batting order put some pressure on Glavine. Wilkerson struck out swinging. But Carroll walked, Pascucci doubled and Sledge walked.

Manager Robinson had veterans Tony Batista and Juan Rivera, and the more experienced Brian Schneider on the bench. But with one out he let the rookie, Ryan Church, bat. He flied out to center for the second out. And light hitting back up catcher, grounded out to second.

"Robinson did not make a move there and it really upset me," said Doucet. "I think with good reason. Sure I was emotional for that last game. But it looked like Robinson did not manage to win that game."

Sledge got the Expos' final hit in the eighth off John Franco. Loser John Patterson (4-7) was Montreal's last starting pitcher.—Mudcat Grant was the first

A couple of hundred fans lingered at the Expos dugout after the last out. But the players didn't return. Again Frank Robinson received the final game ball as a souvenir. The Expos franchise finished with a record of 2,753-2,943 and four ties.

## MINAYA WILL NOT BE PART OF IT

The Expos announced they would make the move to DC without their general manager, Omar Minaya, who was taking the same role with the New York Mets.



## BRAD WILKERSON -THE LAST EXPO

Brad Wilkerson appeared once more in blue Expos cap and gray road uniform during the Major League Baseball Japan All-Star Series shortly after the 2004 regular season. "People started coming up to me and talking about it," said Wilkerson, while taking batting practice prior to Game 3 at the Tokyo Dome. "They're saying that the foreign press is calling me 'The last Expo.' I'm proud of that." He started at first base.

## THE FINAL DESTINATION

Though there had been many suitors for the Montreal Expos, ultimately Washington D.C., with a late deal to fully fund a new stadium won out over Northern Virginia, the first runner up. After failing to secure a stadium site in Arlington, the Northern Virginia group focused attention on a site near Dulles Airport in Loudoun County but could not secure the deal. Stadium financing was a big issue. On this issue, MLB wanted every "i" dotted and every "t" crossed.

"If you don't build it, they won't come," was a mantra for MLB.

In January, 2002, ESPN's Jayson Stark's baseball report included projected attendance figures for several cities pursuing the Expos. Separating potential markets into small, medium, large and extra-large categories, regular reader David Hallstrom projected attendance based on the population/attendance ratio generated by current teams in those markets. The results of these projections ranked the competing cities in the following order:

Washington,.....	3,034,783
Portland, Ore.,.....	2,217,336
Sacramento,.....	1,758,871
Orlando,.....	1,609,795
Las Vegas,.....	1,530,234
Indianapolis,.....	1,573,504
San Antonio,.....	1,558,720
Norfolk,.....	1,536,361
Columbus,.....	1,507,598
Charlotte,.....	1,467,598
New Orleans,.....	1,309,446
Salt Lake,.....	1,305,715

## NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL IN FENWAY?

Puerto Rico, Monterrey, Mexico, and the State of Connecticut, all expressed interest in acquiring the team. As a temporary measure, there was even talk of the Expos playing their 2004 or 2005 home games in Boston. The Red Sox would have gotten extra revenue. Because Red Sox tickets are scarce, visitors would have had a better chance to see a game at Fenway Park. Boston fans would have gotten a chance to see National League baseball for the first time since the Braves left in 1953.

## THE LONG DELAY TAKES ITS TOLL

But some potential ownership groups in these cities had wearied of the long wait and lengthy farewell tour in Montreal. In December, 2002, billionaire Robert Johnson, a 56 year Washington native, who made his fortune in cable television aimed at black viewers, bought the Charlotte Sting, an NBA expansion franchise, instead. His

substantial individual net worth had put him at the head of the line. And the unique prospect of minority ownership was certainly something that baseball had to consider.

The opposition of the Orioles owner Peter Angelos had substantially stalled the move. In recent years his stature as an attorney and a negotiator had proved useful to baseball in labor negotiations. His influence within MLB had grown. A compensation package was negotiated before the final transfer to Washington.

Without Guerrero, Vazquez, Cabrera and others, the Expos-Nationals were decidedly less competitive and less appealing. And perhaps not coincidentally, they were less of an immediate threat to the Orioles.

## WASHINGTON'S GAIN

On Wednesday afternoon, Sept 29, 2004, there was a packed press conference at the DC Museum in Washington where Mayor Tony Williams acknowledged that he had received an anticipated phone call from MLB Commissioner Bud Selig and that baseball would be returning to Washington in the spring of 2005 after an absence of 33 years. The only players in attendance were former Senators pitcher Jim Hannan and former Washington outfielders Chuck Hinton, and Fred Valentine. Former RFK Stadium announcer Charlie Brotman led those gathered to hear the news in an enthusiastic rendition of "Take Me out to the Ball Game." The plans for a new stadium in SE Washington were presented but the deal had yet to receive approval from the DC City Council. The team itself remained a ward of MLB. The city of Washington was chosen but no ownership group was selected for a year and a half.

## MORE TECHNICAL DELAYS

There was still the matter of the lawsuit filed by the minority owners of the Expos in July, 2002.

But on Monday, November 15, 2004, a three-member arbitration panel ruled against the 14 minority owners on all counts, clearing Major League Baseball to move the franchise to Washington. And on February 12, 2005, the lawsuit was dismissed.

A scheduled vote on the relocation on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> in Chicago was postponed, perhaps in response to indecision by the Washington City Council regarding the approval of a stadium plan. But tickets went on sale in Washington anyway.

## MONTREAL'S LOSS

Though the Montreal Expos were not the New York Yankees, their own torch was passed from Rusty and Coco, to Gary and Andre and Warren, to Tim and Henry, to Andres and Larry and Marquis, to Dennis and Moises, to Pedro and Henry, and finally to Vlad and Javier, and Jose, and Orlando. All worthy heroes. The fans loved them all.



## THE BEST OF THE EXPOS

Sports Journalist Alain Usereau's Picks:

Catcher: a no-brainer, Gary Carter

First baseman: Andres Galarraga. Al Oliver wasn't here long enough and had only one good year, albeit a phenomenal one!

Second base: Ron Hunt. If you want to win, he's the guy you want on your side. He would do anything to win. Jose Vidro, Rodney Scott and Mike Lansing should be considered as well.

Third base: Larry Parrish. Wallach is the all-time leader in many categories, but he's never been the leader Parrish was. Parrish was the one who made that team going from 1979 to 1981. His departure was the beginning of the end for what was once touted as the team of the eighties.

Shortstop: Hubie Brooks. Some would argue he was not a real shortstop. But like Hunt, he was a true gamer. Cabrera was a close second.

Left fielder: Tim Raines, the second best player in the Expos' history (yes in front of Carter!)

Center fielder: Marquis Grissom. Yes, I would take Grissom over Andre Dawson. They were both very professional about their business. But Grissom didn't crumble under pressure and he was better on defense.

Right field: Vlad! The Expos had many great right fielders, beginning with Staub. That kept going with Singleton, Valentine, Dawson (when he switched from center field) and Larry Walker.

No. 1 reliever: Mike Marshall

Lefty reliever: Woddy Fryman

Starting pitchers: Pedro Martinez, Dennis Martinez, Steve Rogers, Charlie Lea, Jeff Fassero.

Manager: Dick Williams.

As you can see, my team is filled with many players I consider real gamers, probably the kind of team Williams would have liked!!

My favorite team? The Expos from 1979 to 1981! If you absolutely have to have only one, take the 1979 Expos!

My favorite Expo: Ellis Valentine. To many Gary Carter was the ultimate Expo! But Valentine is right there! He was the most popular player on the team, BY FAR, from 1977 to 1979. In fact, Valentine was a fan's favorite everywhere he played, including the minors.

## EPILOGUE

The relocated Boston Braves stay in Milwaukee, and the Philadelphia A's stopover in Kansas City lasted just 13 years. The Expansion Washington franchise existed for just 11. Success in a new city is not guaranteed.

Baseball is still a game. But it is also a business. The business failed in Montreal. The game did not. The business climate for Baseball in Montreal deteriorated badly. The city itself was not a problem. Montreal is beautiful and relatively safe. There was no urban decay, a problem that contributed to earlier franchise shifts. The home stadium, though inadequate, was hardly run down.

Free agency is fair and equitable for the players and long overdue. It helps the players get fair market value for their skills. They often get more than that. But so many marquee players left Montreal in the last decade. The fans had a less tangible hold on an ever changing "home" team. Loyalties were strained. And for the last three years in Montreal, the Expos were in a "going out of business sale." No one can blame the fans for not supporting that. But there was certainly blame to be shared between the owners, municipal officials, and MLB itself. The token efforts they made, sincere or not, ultimately failed to address the serious problems facing the franchise and to keep it in Montreal. Mr. Loria may even have helped to facilitate the move. The loss of the team was a bitter pill to swallow. But even today there is, amazingly, some lingering affection for the game in the city and the province. The memories of the Expos will surely linger.

"As for the game itself," said Alain Usereau, "There have never been as many players from Quebec in organized baseball as there are today. There are three in the majors: Eric

Gagne, Russell Martin, and Pete Laforest, just been called up. Add to that a French Canadian from Ontario, Erik Bedard, and another one who became this year the first to be drafted in the first round (Philippe Aumont). The quality of coaching has never been better in the province. But many baseball fields are being changed to soccer fields. And Major League Baseball is not a big thing in Montreal sports bars."

Montreal should not be dismissed as a bad baseball town. It was not. It is not. Until the final lame duck seasons, attendance was never the major problem in the Expos saga. Considering everything, it is surprising that it was as good as it was.

## MCCRAW A LINK BETWEEN THE FRANCHISE'S PAST AND FUTURE

Tom McCraw, the hitting coach for the 2004 Expos, remained with the team when it became the Nationals. For him baseball's return to RFK Stadium in Washington on April 14, 2005 was a homecoming of sorts. Though he played just a single season in Washington, he became a significant part of Senators sports history or trivia 34 years earlier. McCraw batted just .213 in 207 at-bats that season, but had the last base hit for the Washington Senators in the team's final game at RFK Stadium on Sept 30, 1971. Caught stealing to end the eighth, he made the Senators' final offensive out. And after replacing Frank Howard at first base in the top of the ninth, he made the final defensive put out for Washington. Bobby Mercer grounded by to the pitcher who threw it to McCraw. That was just the second out. But the game ended then, when fans charged onto the field.



## STILL A STEP CHILD OF MLB

MLB took quite a long time before transferring ownership of the Expos-Nationals to Ted Lerner and the new ownership group in Washington. Stadium negotiations and other problems involving agreements with the DC government proved difficult. But on the field the team was left to flounder during the interim. It may not have appeared that way. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the Nationals were in first place in the National League. But no deals were made. No money was spent to shore up the franchise. At the midpoint of the season the resilient and gutty first year team was 50-31.

The Washington fans were excited and turned out to cheer. But injuries took their toll. With no help provided for the stretch run the team tumbled. In a mirror image of the first half, they went only 31 and 50 over the second half, tumbling into last place. With the team out of contention by Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, the issue of late season call ups was mute.

## TALENT POOL CONTINUES TO BE DRAINED IN WASHINGTON

At the start of the second season in Washington, only four Nationals on the active roster were products of the franchise's six farm teams: catcher Brian Schneider, second baseman Jose Vidro, third baseman Ryan Zimmerman., and pitcher Chad Cordero. Pitchers Roy Corcoran and Mike O'Connor were called up during the season. Former Expos, Brad Wilkerson and Jamie Carroll, fan favorites in their first season stars with Nationals, were traded, along with Termel Sledge, who, after making the final out at Olympic Stadium, hit the first homerun in Nationals history. Pitcher Tomo

Ohka was traded after a spat with manager Robinson. Pitcher Esteban Loaiza left via free agency after a very productive first season in DC. So, despite the strong performance of Alfonzo Soriano, acquired from Texas for Wilkerson and Sledge, the team, beset with injuries, struggled. Attendance dipped sharply. And it continued to dip in 2007, the team's last at RFK Stadium.

## ATTENDANCE IN MONTREAL AND IN WASHINGTON

The first year attendance for the Nationals at RFK in Washington was 2,731,993. That was the 8th highest among the 16 National League teams. The top attendance mark ever for Montreal was 2,320,651, set in 1982. However the Expos mark was third in a 12 team National League at the time. Attendance in Washington dipped to 2,153,056 in 2006 and to 1,943,812 in 2007, 11th and 14th, respectively, in the National League. Montreal exceeded those marks on 4 occasions and finished third in NL attendance for three straight years from 1981 to 1983. 1981 was a strike shortened season. They finished 4th in 1979 and 1980. Montreal matched Washington's first year mark by finishing 6th in attendance in their inaugural 1969 season and 8th or better in league attendance in 1970, 71, 78, 84 and 85. Three of those seasons were at Jarry Park. But Washington gave MLB what it wanted, a new park. Set along the Anacostia River with a view of the Capitol Building beyond left field, it opened in 2008. Attendance will rise. Like the proposed Labatt Park in Montreal, it has a non-retro look. It is built of glass and steel.

The delicate balance between game and business is not certain to be reached in Washington. But there is no city where fans should be more aware of that. Two previous franchises failed in the Nation's

Capital. The Expos-Nationals have a fresh start and another chance. But a poor team on the field will not succeed indefinitely. Even with a new ball park.

MLB, as a surrogate parent, has a vested interest in the outcome. New ownership and MLB would do well to heed the lessons learned from past experiences in Montreal and Washington.

## Box Score of Final Game played at Stade Olympique, Wednesday, Sept 29, 2004

## Scoreboard

Final	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Florida	0	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	9	15	1
Montreal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	2

## Batting

Florida Marlins	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB	AVG
Pierre cf	5	0	2	2	0	2	2	.322
Lo Duca c	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	.290
a Treanor ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Cabrera lf	4	2	1	1	1	1	0	.297
Lowell 3b	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	.292
Mordecai 3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	.218
Conine 1b	5	2	3	1	0	0	1	.277
Aguila rf	5	1	1	0	0	2	4	.265
Castillo 2b	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	.292
b Easley ph,2b	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	.241
Gonzalez ss	5	1	2	2	0	1	1	.235
Pavano p	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	.191
Weathers p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Seanez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	

Montreal Expos	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB	AVG
Wilkerson 1b	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	.254
Labandeira 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Izturis ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	.208
Batista 3b	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	.242
Pascucci 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Sledge lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Rivera cf	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	.305
Church rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	.190
Diaz c	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	.230
Harris 2b,3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.184
Kim p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Majewski p	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Tucker p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.083
c Carroll ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.293
Horgan p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Beltran p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333
d Chavez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Cordero p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	

a-popped out for Lo Duca in the 8<sup>th</sup>

b-lined out for Castillo in the 7<sup>th</sup>

c-grounded out for Tucker in the 5<sup>th</sup>

d-flied out for Beltran in the 8<sup>th</sup>



**Florida**

2B - Juan Pierre (20, Kim), Mike Lowell 2 (43, Kim, Horgan), Damion Easley (20, C. Cordero)  
 HR - Miguel Cabrera (32, Kim)  
 RBI - Juan Pierre 2 (49), Miguel Cabrera (108), Jeff Conine (81), Luis Castillo (46), Alex Gonzalez 2 (79), Carl Pavano (6)  
 2-OUT RBI - Juan Pierre 2 (27), Luis Castillo (23), Alex Gonzalez (32)  
 Team LOB - 8

**Montreal**

Batting  
 2B - Tony Batista (30, Pavano)  
 RBI - Juan Rivera (48)  
 2-OUT RBI - Juan Rivera (30)  
 Team LOB - 3

**Pitching**

Florida Marlins	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	ERA
Pavano W (18-8)	7	7	1	1	0	3	0	3.00
Weathers	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4.25
Seanez	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.45
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	

Montreal Expos	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	ERA
Kim L (4-6)	2	5	5	2	1	1	1	4.58
Majewski	2.1	2	2	2	1	1	0	4.05
Tucker	0.2	4	2	2	0	1	0	3.72
Horgan	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	3.15
Beltran	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	5.40
Cordero	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	3.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>		

**Florida**

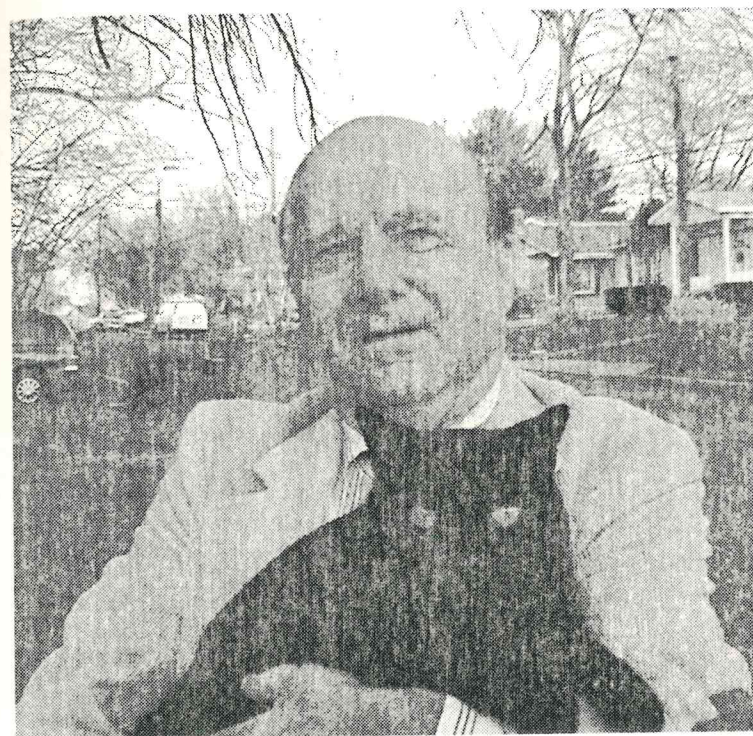
Pitches-Strikes - Carl Pavano 71-55, David Weathers 9-5, Rudy Seanez 9-5  
 Ground Balls-Fly Balls - Carl Pavano 10-5, David Weathers 1-1, Rudy Seanez 1-2  
 Batters Faced - Carl Pavano 25, David Weathers 3, Rudy Seanez 3

**Montreal**

Pitches-Strikes - Sun-Woo Kim 55-35, Gary Majewski 42-23, T.J. Tucker 18-13, Joe Horgan 27-16, Francis Beltran 21-14, Chad Cordero 16-11  
 Ground Balls-Fly Balls - Sun-Woo Kim 5-1, Gary Majewski 2-3, Francis Beltran 1-1, Chad Cordero 1-0  
 Batters Faced - Sun-Woo Kim 13, Gary Majewski 9, T.J. Tucker 6, Joe Horgan 8, Francis Beltran 4, Chad Cordero 4

E-Florida: Easley (7, Wild throw) Montreal: Wilkerson (7, Wild throw), Izturis (7, Misplayed grounder). DP-Florida 2: Castillo-A. Gonzalez-Conine, Conine Montreal: Izturis-Harris-Wilkerson  
 Outfield Assists: Florida: Miguel Cabrera 1 Umpires: HP-Rick Reed, 1B-Mike Fichter, 2B-Ted Barrett, 3B-Alfonso Marquez T-2:39.A-31,395 Game Time Temperature 72

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Jeff Stuart, shown here with his pet cat Oscar, lives in Gaithersburg, MD, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

The author of *TWILIGHT TEAMS*, an entertaining and nostalgic look at the final seasons of the Boston Braves, St. Louis Browns, Philadelphia A's, New York Giants, Brooklyn Dodgers, and Washington Senators, Jeff has written numerous other baseball history related articles as well. He is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research, Bob Davids Chapter.

A longtime fan of the former Washington Senators, and a follower of the Baltimore Orioles, he is adjusting to having a team back in the Nation's Capital.

*JEFFREY STUART*

Now 63, he graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and the University of Maryland. He retired after 32 years as a cartographer with the National Ocean Service in 2000. His specialty was electronic aids to navigation.



This straightforward, entertaining, sometimes nostalgic, and sometimes sad account of the Montreal Expos in their final season and of the events leading up to their departure is also a pocket history of the 33-year run of the franchise in Canada. The Expos were the first Major League Baseball team to relocate since the Washington Senators moved to Texas in 1971.



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He is a serious collector of hats of all kinds. His house looks like a hat museum. He coached wrestling for ten years and continues to run a recreational volleyball program for the city of Gaithersburg.

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